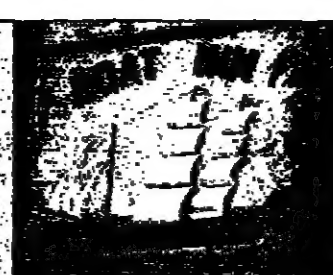




RIGHT THINKING
Tessa Keswick prepares to grab back the policy agenda for the Tories **PAGE 18**



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THE TIMES

No. 65,391

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 1995

Lang attacks Telecom monopoly

Tebbit backs Blair's cable deal with BT

By Philip Webster and Philip Bassett

LORD TEBBIT embarrassed the Government yesterday by praising Tony Blair's foresight as the Labour leader sealed a pact allowing British Telecom to wire up Britain.

The former Conservative chairman, now a BT director, countered government claims that Mr Blair had jumped the gun on Tuesday when he told his party conference of plans to let BT link every school, hospital and library to the information superhighway. In return, it would be allowed to compete with cable and satellite companies in broadcasting entertainment.

Jan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the deal would create a private monopoly for BT and accused Labour of stitching up a "backroom deal" favouring one company at the expense of others.

But Lord Tebbit said in a BBC interview that it was Mr Blair's credit that he had recognised the value to the country of building the information network. He wished that Mr Lang or his predecessor, Michael Heseltine, had made the deal.

Although he was clearly representing his company's interests, the Government's discomfort was heightened by the appearance of one of Labour's toughest opponents in Brighton. He even praised Mr Blair's conference speech and last night had a discussion with him in the conference hall. Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman, later arrived at Mr Blair's hotel for brief talks on their agreement.

Both Lord Tebbit and Mr Blair made plain that the

A winning week

TONY BLAIR's grip on his party was underlined last night as he completed the Labour conference's main policy business without suffering a single defeat. He even beat off left-wing demands to scrap the Trident missile system.

The last threat disappeared when delegates backed his pledge to hold a referendum on proportional representation after the next election. Officials said it was the most trouble-free week in memory.

Labour leader's statement on Tuesday had been agreed in advance with BT and Mr Blair said: "The Conservatives have shot themselves in the foot in a monumental way."

Last night, Mr Lang changed tack as he returned to the attack. After initial claims that there was no deal, he now said that if there was one, it was not in the public interest. "If we had done a sort of deal with BT, no other cable company would have entered the market," he said.

He also wrote to Mr Blair saying the deal would require a change in BT's licence. "Then there is the position of many other companies who have entered this market in good faith, against the background of public undertakings, investing billions of pounds."

Last year the Government turned down demands from the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee for a change to BT's licence to allow

it to compete in the cable market. The company is planning a £15 billion information network, but is prevented from using it to provide home entertainment until 2002.

Mr Lang has now asked Mr Blair and Sir Iain for details of their discussions. He said: "Labour says there is a deal. Sir Iain Vallance has told me there is no deal. Who is correct? Even if there is a deal, hatched in private between the Labour Party and BT, it cannot be seen to be in the public interest. Competition and choice best serve the consumer, not private, sweetheart deals with one company that undermine the others."

Mr Blair retaliated by accusing the Government of trying to undermine an arrangement that would benefit the whole country. He said: "What you have is the extraordinary and inept sight of a government minister who could have concluded the deal himself trying to 'upset' arrangements we have agreed."

This competition has to be phased in so that no one has a monopoly in the market, but we should not be shutting out one of our major companies."

Sir Iain said last night: "There is no deal as such between BT and the Labour Party, but there is an understanding that if they get into power, they will adopt the recommendations of the trade and industry committee to allow BT and Mercury to compete with the cable and television companies."

Conference reports and Peter Riddell, page 10



Tebbit among his former Labour opponents in Brighton: "It's interesting to attend the re-launch of the SDP"

Enter Mischief (aka New Norman)

Conference Sketch

Matthew Parris

SADLY the Brighton beach is shingle, or he would have been out kicking down kiddies' sandcastles.

People dropped their sandwiches as he passed. In the tiny Sky studio journalists jostled. Up at the Telecom stall assistants waited nervously. Two policemen fidgeted by the stairs. Modelling their tactics on the great Thatcher Arrivals of the past, Lord Tebbit had let it be known only by rumour that he might be coming; but when? News of alleged stings swept the corridors.

In he strode, photographers tripping at his feet.

reporter for BSkyB is received into Labour's parlour with — if not affection — a mighty curiosity.

"It's... interesting," came the mordant crackle, "to attend the relaunch of the SDP. I must say they're doing it very well."

Was he here to make mischief against Labour? or the Tories? Seasoned Tebbit-watchers know that to ask "mischief against whom?" is to misunderstand the man. He simply is mischief: mischief made flesh, mischief in boots, mischief on a stick, mischief in ermine. "Against whom?" is decided on the

wing and by whim, weather or digestion. You might as well ask whom a Scorpion is created to sting. Anyone! A dig at new Labour, a kick in the groin for the Cabinet, a sly slide swipe at Heseltine... oh yes, our Norman was enjoying his day at the seaside.

So was Michael Connarty, the Labour MP for Falkirk East. We read, "is to experience becoming pregnant at 11.45am at the Royal College of Midwives' stand today". We blanched. To experience being pregnant is one thing; to experience becoming pregnant would be amusing but

Continued on page 2, col 4

Britain to cut force as Bosnia ceasefire is agreed

By James Bone in New York and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN is to bring home 3,300 troops of 24 Airmobile Brigade from Bosnia. The decision was announced last night after President Clinton announced that the warring parties had agreed to a 60-day ceasefire.

The truce, due to start on October 10, is to be followed by talks in Washington on October 25. These could lead to a full peace conference in Paris. Mr Clinton described the agreement, brokered by Richard Holbrooke, his peace envoy, as "an important moment in the painful history of Bosnia".

However, the guns will fall silent by one minute past midnight next Tuesday only if full gas and electricity supplies have been restored in Sarajevo, as demanded by the Bosnian Government.

After Britain's partial withdrawal of 24 Airmobile Brigade, 700 soldiers will be left behind to protect the brigade's equipment which will be kept in readiness at the base at Ploce in Croatia. The reduction in the size of the force means that Britain's military presence will be cut to about 5,000, although the brigade will remain on seven days' notice to return to Bosnia.

The brigade was sent to Bosnia two months ago to be part of the new 10,000-man Rapid Reaction Force. However, the troops have not been used, although their presence, with 105mm light guns and transport helicopters, provided vital extra muscle when the UN needed to act tough with the Bosnian Serbs. The other half of the reaction force, consisting of British, French and Dutch troops, will remain in Bosnia, based on Mount Igman near Sarajevo.

UN to shrink force, page 15
Letters, page 21

Burglars bring the house down

Bungling burglars have destroyed a firework factory when the welding equipment they were using to break into a storehouse triggered a huge explosion.

The blast was heard five miles away as an old concrete bunker — formerly used by the Ministry of Defence to store ammunition and made of 12in thick concrete to withstand bombs — was reduced to rubble. **Page 3**

OJ lawyer in plea bargain

One of O.J. Simpson's lawyers discussed a plea bargain that would have involved him admitting manslaughter and one of his close friends going to jail for five years, another defence attorney said yesterday. F. Lee Bailey's remarks further exposed the rift within the defence team and showed that even some in Mr Simpson's inner circle doubted his innocence. **Page 14**

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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'Benefit tourists' deprived of claim to be housed

By Lin Jenkins and Ian Murray

HOMELESS unemployed immigrants from other European countries do not have to be housed by local authorities in Britain, the High Court ruled in a test case yesterday.

Deputy Judge Roger Henderson, QC, said that Westminster City Council acted within the law when officials refused to accommodate two homeless HIV sufferers, Gaudentio Castelli, 35, a flower seller from Bergamo, Italy, and José Tristán-García, 32, a barman from Almería, Spain.

In an endorsement of government policy to crack down on European nationals who take advantage of the benefit system — the so-called "benefit tourists" — the judge said those likely to be a burden on the host state "should head home". The judgment comes as a relief to councils through-

out the country which could have been forced to give council houses at taxpayers' expense for life to thousands of unemployed EU nationals.

The judge ruled that the London council acted lawfully earlier this year when officials refused to house the single man who had entered the country lawfully as EU citizens but were unemployed, penniless and had no reasonable prospect of finding work.

The Home Office subsequently ruled they were not lawfully resident because they were not working and were unlikely to do so.

Hugh McGeever, Westminster's housing demand manager, last night welcomed the judge's clarification of the law and said it could affect hundreds of EU nationals, Mike Canham, head of the housing

provisions unit of Westminster Council, said: "The potential costs are horrendous."

Westminster council is reconsidering the case of Mr Tristán-García as he found employment after the council made the ruling not to house him. Mr Castelli will continue to be granted temporary accommodation pending the outcome of any appeal, which the judge said should be heard as a matter of urgency.

The Association of London Government hailed the ruling. "It clarifies the law and tidies up a potential anomaly. It usually involves young people who come over to work in the hotel trade, lose their job and then try to get accommodation. They mostly tend to drift back after a while."

Immigrants' tale, page 2

Major to name 12 life peers

By Sheila Gunn

JOHN MAJOR will soon announce 12 new working peers to strengthen the front benches in the House of Lords. Under pressure from the opposition parties, the Prime Minister has agreed to enoble six Conservatives, four Labour and two Liberal Democrats.

Although the Tory list will largely reward faithful service to the party, new peers nominated by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown will be expected to play an active role.

On Mr Blair's list is Professor Robert Winston, the consultant who pioneered infertility treatments. There is speculation that he has also nominated Sir Gordon Borrie, who chaired Labour's Commission on Social Justice.

Lords reform, page 12

Heaney awarded Nobel Prize for Literature

By Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor

SEAMUS HEANEY, the Irish poet, was yesterday awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Swedish Academy of Letters. But he was on holiday in Greece when the \$1 million prize was announced, and remained in blissful ignorance for several hours while frantic efforts were made to find him.

Politicians, writers and family members were quick to hail the Ulster-born

Nobel laureate, the first Irishman to win the prize since Samuel Beckett in 1969 and W.B. Yeats in 1923. The Irish President, Mary Robinson, hinted at the often controversial impact of Mr Heaney's work in Ireland. He had, she said, "excited, enlightened, challenged and inspired, but never disappointed".

Mr Heaney's brother Hugh insisted the prize "won't change him", and said he would continue to revisit Derry. "He loves coming back to where he was brought up." Born a British citizen but

now resident in Dublin, Mr Heaney, 56, could afford to give up his professorial chair at Harvard University, where he spends a third of the year. But he enjoys his teaching and the company of fellow Nobel laureates who also teach there.

The award ceremony will take place in Stockholm in December.

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Heaney: news delayed

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Britain urged to apologise over Irish famine



Ahern: wants "an expression of regret" from Government

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Northern Ireland "peace process" could be assisted by a formal British apology for the Irish famine 150 years ago, it was suggested yesterday.

In a further reminder of the smouldering resentments that underlie Anglo-Irish relations, Bertie Ahern, the opposition Fianna Fail leader, demanded "an expression of regret" to mark the anniversary commemorations of the ordeal, which could be said to have altered the course of not just Irish but world history.

In one of a series of statements by party chiefs in the Republic, Mr Ahern claimed that the famine marked the nadir of Anglo-Irish relations. "A certain unfavourable view of Ireland among economists,

and a clique of very senior British officials with the support of Government, cut off effective help at a vital moment with the consequences we all know," he said.

In overpopulated Ireland in 1845 the blight which struck the potato crop was a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. Potatoes, as vital to the lives of the largely peasant population as rice in Asia or maize in Africa, rotted in the ground and became a black, inedible pulp.

The blight struck again in the next two years, and uncounted numbers died of starvation and of diseases such as typhus. The only escape was by emigration to Britain itself, to the United States and to Australia and New Zealand, and the population fell from about 8.5 million to little more than 6.5 million in six years. Although the British Government

could not be blamed for a calamity of nature, it was widely accused of doing too little and too late by way of relief. Although food was shipped to Ireland by the Government and charities, the profitable export of grain and cattle was allowed to continue, benefiting wealthy farmers and landowners.

Emigration was to pave the way for the subsequent exodus which depopulated large areas of the country and created an Irish "diaspora". More ominously, the bitterness poisoned relations and engendered a new spirit of nationalism, the rise of Fenianism and a conviction that the British would always regard the Irish as second-class citizens.

Thus a century and a half of turbulence and distrust underlay Mr Ahern's statement yesterday. "I

hope," he said, "that at some point the British Government at the highest level will make a considered statement on the famine, as part of what the Downing Street declaration describes as the most urgent and important issue relating to peace and reconciliation — to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions."

"I think a frank acknowledgement and expression of regret from the highest level about the shortcomings of the then British Government's response to the famine would contribute to a better climate of relations," he said.

"I hope the British Government — and I do mean the Government, not the British ambassador or a junior member of the Royal Family or a churchman — will grasp the opportunity."

Case stories behind court ruling

How penniless pair became 'benefit tourists'

By LIN JENKINS

ONE of the penniless immigrants who lost his fight for council housing yesterday says that he came to Britain hoping to start a business.

Gaudenzio Castelli, 35, a flower seller from Bergamo, Italy, told Westminster Council that he became involved in drug-taking after being frustrated by his failure to start a plastic recycling company.

After his £3,000 capital ran out, he lived off friends and charity from a church. His health deteriorated, he went into hospital several times and was given temporary accommodation by the council. When they refused further accommodation, he slept rough.

Jose Tristan-Garcia came to England from Almeria, Spain, in February 1993, and lived with an uncle in Walthamstow, east London, while working as an office cleaner and part-time barman. He

went back to Spain, but returned and from February 1994 he had no paid employment. He obtained income support, housing benefit, plus a disability allowance because of difficulties with walking.

The Home Office Immigration and Nationality Department wrote to both saying the Secretary of State was not satisfied that they were "lawfully resident" because they were not employed or "seeking work with a genuine chance".

In Mr Tristan-Garcia's case, the immigration authorities asked him to leave the country, but said no action would be taken to deport him. When Westminster Council learned of the decision, they decided they had no duty to rehouse the men.

The judge rejected claims that it was not the proper function of a local authority to decide the status of applicants for housing. He said the fact

that Mr Tristan-Garcia had succeeded in obtaining work in August should not be allowed to "colour the facts". In April it had been reasonable to assume that he had no prospects of employment after more than 18 months without paid work.

"If EU law were to be so loosely interpreted that member states had to allow well over a year to other member state's nationals in poor health and with limited linguistic abilities to find non-specialist employment, the objective of securing the free movement of workers would in no true sense be promoted."

In Mr Castelli's case, there was "compelling" evidence that having failed to start a business within a reasonable time, he could claim no right of residence based on EU law.

"If he is not exercising a community right and he is homeless, should he be a burden upon the host state or should he head home? Surely, unless there is a compelling case to the contrary, he should head home." The judge also rejected claims that an EU directive entitled immigrants to come freely to the UK to take advantage of NHS services, and that conferred a right of residence.

The two men were ruled to be unlawfully resident under guidelines issued last year by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. The change, bringing Britain into line with the rest of Europe, was designed to halt benefit tourism. Since then, half the 18,000 EU citizens who sought residence have been rejected by the DSS.

Nick Farridge, chief executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust, which backed Mr Castelli's case, said: "It is disgraceful that a man with a life-threatening illness has been released from hospital only to face life on the street."

Immunity Legal Centre, a charity which provides HIV and Aids sufferers with free legal advice and which backed Mr Tristan-Garcia's case, said that the appeal case would be heard as soon as possible.

Mr Castelli, who is living in temporary council accommodation, declined to comment.

Mr Tristan-Garcia, said by his legal representatives to be unwell, was unavailable for comment. Neither man was in court.



Michael Connarty: fully equipped to spread the word for new Labour

Mischief at the conference

Continued from page 1

surely, rather private? We read on: "He will be trying out the Empathy Belly."

Phew! An immaculate conception. Very Tony Blair. Very new Labour.

Kind fate had positioned the midwives' stand next to the DHL Express Delivery stand. Mo Mowlam turned up to hold Mr Connarty's hand at this difficult time. She giggled when someone called "who gets to do the epidural?"

"How about the morning sickness?" I asked. "Bring back last year's pistachio stage set and we can all experience it," came a voice from the crowd. Connarty

donned a big belly-pouch, several bean bags, two huge balls of lead and a large pair of breasts.

"Roy Hattersley could have done this without the equipment," he said. "It's Labour's answer to women-only shortlists." They strapped a sloshing plastic water bag onto him. "New Labour, new bladder."

"I hope it's a girl," he said. "I want my child to have a chance of being an MP."

The photographers led us out into the street. Connarty stood there in the rain, wagging his appendages as an

amazed taxi driver drew up. "Whatever turns 'em on," gasped his passenger, scuttling away in panic.

"It's totally degrading to women," a cross-looking lady snapped.

"I think my waters are breaking," said an alarmed Mr Connarty, glancing down at the leaking plastic.

"It ain't unusual in Brighton, blokes dressing up as women," confided a passing police constable, "go down the Beachcomber Club tomorrow night. They're all at it. Even the bouncers. Don't quote me."

Lyell warns media over court coverage

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, warned the media yesterday that if they overstepped the line in pretrial publicity then editors would find themselves in court.

Speaking after he ordered an inquiry into press coverage after a trial was halted because of "unlawful, misleading and scandalous reporting", Sir Nicholas made clear he intended to use the laws of contempt against the press. "Editors need to be under no illusion that if they do publish material which is going to cause a substantial risk of serious prejudice to proceedings, then they are likely to find themselves in the divisional court," Sir Nicholas, whose job as the Government's chief law officer is to enforce the contempt laws, denied he was taking a tougher line than before or that he had "reduced" the press to push the boundaries of the law on what could be reported through failing to draw the line himself. "We have always taken a firm but fair line," he said. "One has to have a proper balance between two public interests: that in freedom of speech and that in a fair trial."

Power supply flickers

Britain came close to running out of electricity on the morning of July 19, the National Grid has admitted. An inquiry has been launched to find what went wrong. The Grid was forced to call on stand-by power stations and nearly had to cut the frequency and voltage of supply to make ends meet. The Grid says that generating companies failed to produce the power they had promised. National Power, Powergen and Nuclear Electric all denied blame.

Macedonia calls in Yard

Scotland Yard detectives have been sent to Macedonia to help investigate a car bomb attack on the country's president earlier this week. The four-man team is expected to stay for several weeks and bring back evidence for examination by the Yard's forensic science laboratories. President Kiro Gligorov, 78, received head injuries when a car parked outside a hotel in Skopje blew up as he was driven past. He is seriously ill in hospital.

Swans earn stripes

A railway bridge over the Thames at Staines, Surrey, is being painted with yellow stripes at the cost of £15,000 to stop short-sighted swans flying into it and falling on to the track. Steve Jones, a conservation officer at the Egham Swan Sanctuary, said the swans had difficulty seeing the top of the steel-girder bridge against the grey waters of the river. Some of the birds have died and others have been treated for serious leg injuries.

Gassed children buried

The funeral was held yesterday of four children who were gassed to death in a car by their father, Jonathan Mitchell, nine, Cathryn, seven, and six-year-old twins Christopher and Jessica were buried together in one grave at St Helen's church in Northwich, Cheshire. Their bodies were found last Friday with that of their father, Philip, 36, who had recently been divorced from their mother, Linda. Mr Mitchell's body will be cremated today in Altrincham.

Shy men shun doctors

Many men are too shy to seek doctors' advice about their health worries until it is too late, research published yesterday suggests. Embarrassment puts them at increased risk of death from testicular, prostate and penile cancers, the Health Education Authority said. Men were not interested in their health until the age of about 50, when they began to feel themselves slowing down, the study of 64 men aged from 16 to 75 found.

Woman driver cleared

A woman who drove for more than three miles with a retired police superintendent clinging to the bonnet of her car was cleared of dangerous driving yesterday. The incident was the culmination of a ten-year dispute between Lorna Greinel, 41, and Michael Somerton, 57, Mrs Greinel, of Eversholt, Bedfordshire, told Luton Crown Court that Mr Somerton had flung himself onto her car and she had driven slowly while asking him to get off.

Sex shows for ITV

ITV has lined up a series of sexy shows for its new late-night schedule. *Canal Knowledge*, a comedy quiz show, tests contestants' knowledge of sex while *God's Gift* is a 50-part dating game series. *Dani Beaz*, who hosted Channel 4's *The Word*, will present *Hotel Babylon*, an entertainment and music show, and Katie Puckridge will host *Pjamas Party*, said to be "full of unfettered confessions, laughs and breasts". Marge Clarke presents *The Good Sex Guide Live*.

Cantona a man's man

Manchester men would rather go on holiday with Eric Cantona, Manchester United's French soccer star, than with the models Cindy Crawford or Claudia Schiffer. The extent of the male fan's love affair with Cantona was revealed in research for the tour operator Unijet, which asked Manchester shoppers for their ideal holiday companion. Nearly 40 per cent of men plumped for Cantona, but women preferred the actor Mel Gibson.

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Random action moves step closer Police to give all accident drivers a breathalyser test

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BREATH tests will be given to every driver involved in an accident attended by police under tough new regulations introduced yesterday by Scotland Yard.

Drivers involved in the most minor collision could be tested, no matter the time of day. Even drivers who are the innocent party in an accident will be required to prove they are below the alcohol limit.

Police attend traffic accidents when there has been an injury, where the accident has been reported by a witness or where one party alleges there has been a breach of the law, such as dangerous driving.

Senior officers hope the extension of the test will prevent people from driving the morning after a heavy night's drinking, assuming they must be safe. The tests could also catch social drinkers who might have more than they realise over a lunch or a morning social event.

Twenty-five forces have adopted the policy, which the Yard has used before at Christmas. The Yard is taking fresh action after a sharp rise in positive tests in London this year, which could be linked to longer opening hours for public houses and bars. Other forces in the South East, including Thames Valley and Surrey, are expected to follow the decision of the Metropolitan Police.

The policy will take police closer to the power of "unfettered discretion", where police could use tests routinely without responding to an accident or signs of drink-driving. Chief constables want the new power but the Home Office

The new breath-test policy is merely applying the powers police already have under existing law. John Spencer, of the Magistrates' Association road traffic committee and former editor of the standard textbook *Wilkinson's Road Traffic Offences*, said: "Constables have always had this power and they have, from time to time, announced they would use it in this way, such as during Christmas campaigns." Under section 6A of the Road Traffic Act 1988, a uniformed constable can breath-test someone if he has reasonable cause to suspect that a person driving or attempting to drive has alcohol in his body. He can also order a breath test if he believes a person has committed a traffic offence.

and the Environment Department have told them they have not yet exhausted their current powers.

If the wider use of the test at accidents shows that there is a substantial group of drivers who persist in drinking and driving, the police case for further powers will be strengthened.

Yesterday, Assistant Commissioner Paul Manning, responsible for traffic policy in London, said tests were already given to all drivers in accidents involving police vehicles and the new policy had been tested in southeast London.

He said tests that were positive had risen from 8 per cent in 1993 to 9 per cent last year and 15 per cent in the first half of this year. There were

10,134 positive tests in 1993 out of 141,989 offered; 12,586 out of 142,065 last year and 8,843 out of 58,562 this year.

Mr Manning said a sea-change had taken place among drivers generally. Nonetheless, a hard core of drink-drivers remained who had learnt to take precautions against being stopped by avoiding drawing attention to themselves.

The AA welcomed the move and said in a statement: "Some motorists drink and drive because they believe that the police will never catch them and now their chances of arrest are much higher." Andrew Howard, head of road safety for the AA, said: "As more tests take place, we will hopefully see a reduction in the number of drivers who persistently, and knowingly, break the law and endanger the lives of others."

The normal grounds for a breath test are either reasonable suspicion that a driver has alcohol in their blood, if a driver has been involved in a moving traffic offence or in an accident. Reasonable grounds for suspicion could be the way the car is being driven or if, when a car is stopped for another offence, the policeman then thinks the motorist has been drinking. He might smell alcohol or be suspicious because of the driver's manner.

Under the principle of "unfettered discretion" the police could simply pull over drivers without grounds for suspicion and test them. That would amount to random breath tests. In some countries they go further and set up road blocks or test a certain number of drivers passing a testing station.



The remains of the van used by thieves trying to break into a fireworks factory in Kent. The explosion could be heard up to five miles away

Welding-torch gang blows up fireworks plant

By JOHN YOUNG

BUNGLING burglars destroyed a fireworks factory yesterday when the welding equipment they were using to break into a storeroom triggered a huge explosion.

The blast was heard five miles away as an old concrete bunker — formerly used by the Ministry of Defence to store ammunition and made of 12-inch concrete to withstand bombs during the Second World War — was reduced to rubble.

Police, who were checking the wreckage for bodies, believe the raiders set

fire to their van by accident and it in turn ignited the fireworks. But they believe the thieves escaped from Skyhigh Pyrotechnics, based at a former airfield near Kingsdown, Kent.

The steel door which the burglars had tried to burn through lay near the chassis and wheels, which were all that remained of their van. The bonnet and roof of the vehicle lay 30ft away in a field, and the battery was found in two pieces almost 50ft away. The remains of the welding equipment also lay several feet from the bunker.

Rod McGregor, one of the owners of the company, said: "You can plan for

every eventuality but the last thing you expect is anyone trying to attack an explosives factory with an oxyacetylene torch. You can never make anything explosion-proof but whoever tried this must have been a nutter."

The storeroom had contained up to 700 fireworks, including rockets and Roman candles. They were the kind used for large firework displays and were not on sale in shops. Mr McGregor estimated that the building would have contained about 60kg of gunpowder, but said: "The blaze would have started slowly so they would have realised what they had

done and had plenty of time to get away. Obviously the explosion was very dramatic but once their van caught light they did a runner." He said that the blast had probably cost the firm £150,000 but, because of its timing only a month before Guy Fawkes night, the loss of trade could be higher still. "Basically this has decimated us," he said.

"This is not the time of year to start rebuilding a business which trades in fireworks. We still have to analyse what we have lost. We've got ten full-time staff and they have all had to be sent home today."

Judge says sex attacker should have sent flowers

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SEX attacker could have avoided appearing in court if he had sent his victim a bunch of flowers, a judge said yesterday. David Vaughan, 45, a postal worker, admitted indecent assault but Judge David Griffiths told him: "If you had had the courage and good manners to say you were sorry and sent a bunch of flowers all would have been forgiven."

Vaughan went to a woman's home in the early hours of the morning in November last year, undressed her and committed an indecent assault. At the judge's request, the 44-year-old woman was taken to Winchester Crown Court by a police officer to be asked if she would accept compensation. She said: "I am not here for that. I never thought about it."

The judge said: "Well, I have thought for you and I think you should have £500 for the traumatic ordeal you have suffered. You could spend the money on a holiday but if you do not want it you could give it to charity. If you are keen on cats, you could give it to a cat's home."

He said: "Am I right that if the defendant had sent you a bunch of flowers and apologised all would have been forgiven and forgotten?" The shaking woman nodded

her head. Robert Hill, for the defence, said Vaughan admitted petting and fondling the woman but had no intention of raping her.

His denial of attempted rape was accepted by the prosecution and a formal not guilty verdict was entered.

Vaughan, a divorcee of Basingstoke, Hampshire, was ordered to pay the woman £500 compensation and £950 prosecution costs. There was no other punishment. He had no previous convictions.

The judge's remarks were condemned by the Justice for Women campaign. Julie Binde, a spokeswoman, said: "Judge Griffiths' remarks have trivialised a very serious matter and he should be made to retire immediately."

The last thing any victim of a sexual assault wants is a bunch of flowers from a man. She wants protection from him.

This case highlights the essential need for training for judges and magistrates.

"It shows how little progress has been made in the courts in dealing with cases of violence against women. Men, who sexually assault women deserve prison sentences and this case sends out all the wrong messages."

Hitman in clown suit fires shot at patient

By RICHARD DOCE

A HITMAN dressed as a clown bluffed his way on to a hospital ward and tried to murder one of the patients with a sawn-off shotgun hidden behind a bunch of flowers, police said yesterday.

The gunman, sporting false Dracula-style fangs, a clown's wig, red nose and blue polka-dot suit, shot his intended victim at close range after convincing staff he had come to cheer him up. The murder attempt failed only because the 26-year-old victim turned his back as the weapon went off and took the force of the blast in his shoulder. He is under armed guard after surgery to his wound, which is said not to be life-threatening.

Police are linking the attack on Wednesday night to an incident in August which led the victim to be in hospital. He was being treated in the burns unit at St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay, Essex, after being scarred with acid by two men who abducted him from a telephone box in Purfleet, bundled him into a car and dumped him six miles away in Dagenham.

The victim, who comes from Essex but has not been named, was offered protection, but refused to take it or to co-operate with the police.

Airline founder wins right to free first-class tickets

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE man who founded the airline that became Virgin Atlantic has won a High Court victory allowing him free first-class flights on the airline as often as he likes, with his family and two friends.

Randolph Fields, an American insurance lawyer who established the airline in 1983, a year before Richard Branson financed it, took Virgin Management to court, claiming that it had broken a contract worth an estimated £300,000 a year to give his family free first-class flights.

Mr Fields served a writ last month claiming that, by downgrading his flying privileges to economy, Virgin was causing him "damage and loss of reputation and esteem". Yesterday he was

awarded summary judgment at the High Court, with damages to be assessed later.

"I am obviously delighted," he said. "The judgment restores upper-class air seats for myself, my mother, my wife, my children and any two friends."

Mr Fields lives in Jersey and has homes in Scotland and California, but works in the United States and London, relying heavily on air travel. "In the last 18 months I have made approximately two round trips a month, or one flight a week," he said. "It is worth a great deal of money. I am very pleased now to be back with Virgin."

A spokesman for Virgin said last month that Mr Fields had made demands for

money to which the airline did not believe he was entitled. The airline had been concerned with the extent of his flight requests.

Yesterday Mr Fields praised the swiftness of the judicial process that had brought him judgment within a matter of weeks. "Lord Woolf [who is conducting a review to speed up civil justice] would have been very pleased."

Andrew Granger, a litigation partner with the City law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, who has been acting for Mr Fields for ten years, said: "Some of the points raised in this case may seem unusual but for an international businessman like Mr Fields they can be very important for the effective conduct of his work."

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Pleasance nothing like roles he played

Masterly Pleasance recalled as friend

By DAVID ALBERGE

HAROLD PINTER, John Mortimer and Joanna Lumley were among writers and actors who yesterday attended the memorial service for Donald Pleasance, who died in February aged 75.

Pleasance, a mesmerising actor with famously unblinking eyes and a mastery of understatement, was best known for playing villains and psychopaths from Dr Crippen to Blotfeld. Yesterday's service was intended as a celebration of a man who was nothing like his villains: it ended with a Beatles song, *All You Need Is Love*.

Mr Mortimer was among those who reminisced about long-standing friendships. Mr Pinter said that Pleasance had given "one of the greatest performances of the 20th century" in his play, *The Caretaker*. That play, in which he played Davies the tramp, had launched Pleasance's career in 1960. He went on to make over 250 films, though he claimed to have lost count.

The service was held at the Comedy Theatre in central London, where Pleasance took his final bow on a British stage in 1991 in *The Caretaker*. One reviewer wrote of that performance: "It is impossible to take your eyes off him."

Linda, his widow, was there with Pleasance's five daughters and his grandchildren. The service was staged by Sandra Lean, fourth wife of the late Sir David Lean.

Memorial service, page 22

Cosmopolitan life of Nobel prizewinner and successor to W.B. Yeats

Heaney, the Irishman without frontiers

By DANIEL JOHNSON

SEAMUS HEANEY is the greatest Irish poet to learn his trade in Ulster, and he straddles the two traditions like no other. The award of the Nobel Prize for Literature yesterday makes him one of the most famous living Irishmen, and one of the richest.

These days Heaney is a cosmopolitan figure, dividing his time between his home in Dublin and Harvard University, where he holds the Boylston Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory. In Massachusetts he joins other Nobel Laureates. Including several poets — the West Indian Derek Walcott, the Russian Joseph Brodsky and the Pole Czesław Miłosz.

Between 1989 and 1994, he was Professor of Poetry at Oxford, where his brilliant lectures (just published as *The Redress of Poetry*) and his warm, generous and convivial attitude towards undergraduates helped to make him the most successful incumbent.

Yesterday leading critics and poets were quick to pay tribute to Heaney, born into a Catholic family in Londonderry 56 years ago. Roy Foster, Professor of Irish History at Oxford and the official biographer of Yeats — the last Irish poet to win the Nobel Prize, in 1923 — sees Heaney as heir to the Anglo-Irish ambiguities of the past. "He occupies a place in Irish national life that no poet since Yeats has enjoyed."

Heaney's successor in the Oxford chair, James Fenton, recalled a reading in Oxford given by Heaney and Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate, as "the most exciting I've ever been to — he has an extraordinary ability to inspire affection in his audience."

Heaney has declared his allegiance when British poets assimilate him to their tradition. In 1982, Andrew Motion and Blake Morrison put him in their *Penguin Anthology of British Poetry*. Heaney responded with an *Open Letter* in verse: "Be advised my passport's green. No glass of ours was ever raised to toast the Queen."

However, Heaney's poetic roots are as much within the British tradition as the Irish. He was educated at St Columba's College, Londonderry, and Queen's University, Belfast, where he later lectured. When his name became



Seamus Heaney, who declared in 1982: "Be advised my passport's green. No glass of ours was ever raised to toast the Queen"

prominent in 1966, it was in London with the leading poetry publisher Faber. His *Death of a Naturalist*, which reinterpreted rural life just as Ted Hughes and Thom Gunn had done, established him as their natural successor. He found advocates in Karl Miller of *The Listener* and Christopher Ricks in Cambridge.

His poetry took a more overtly Irish turn with his collection *North* (1975). In a lecture two years ago, he spoke of his sense of being out of place, even of "betrayal", at enjoying Oxford hospitality while a family friend lay dying in an IRA hunger strike.

But as a constitutional nationalist, he is far from rejecting "the British dimension — a given of our history and even of our geography, one of the places where we all live, willy-nilly. It's in the language. And it's where the mind of many in the republic lives also."

Libby Purves, page 19
Leading article, page 21

MYCENAE LOOKOUT

This is one of Heaney's most recent poems. It was first published in *The Times Literary Supplement* in December 1994 and is reprinted with permission of Faber & Faber.

Cities of grass. Fort walls. The dumbstruck palace. I'd come to with the night wind on my face. Agog, alert again, but far, far less

Focused on victory than I should have been — Still isolated in an old disdain

Of claque who always needed to be seen And heard as the true Argives. Mouth athletes. Quoting the oracle and quoting dates.

Petitioning, accusing, taking votes. No element that should have carried weight

Out of the grievous distance would translate. Our war stalled in the pre-articulate.

The little violet heads bowed on their stems. The pre-dawn gossamers, all dew and scrim

And star-lace, it was more through them I felt the beating of the huge time-wound

We lived inside. My soul wept in my hand When I would touch them, my whole being rained

Down on myself, I saw cities of grass, Valleys of longing, tombs, a wind-swept brightness,

And far-off, in a hilly, ominous place. Small crowds of people watching as a man

Jumped a fresh earth-wall and another ran

Amorously, it seemed, to strike him down.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Preoccupations: Selected Prose, 1963-1978 (1980)

The Government of the Tongue (1988)

The Cure at Troy (A version of Sophocles's *Philoctetes*) (1990)

The Redress of Poetry (Oxford Lectures) (1995)

Eleven Poems (1965)

Death of a Naturalist (1966); Somerset Maugham Award, 1967; Cholmondeley Award, 1968

Door into the Dark (1969)

Wintering Out (1972)

North (1975); W. H. Smith Award; Duff Cooper Prize

Field Work (1979)

Selected Poems, 1965-1975 (1980)

(ed) *The Rattle Bag* (with Ted Hughes) (1982)

Sweeney Astray (1984); revised edition as *Sweeney's Flight*, with photographs by Rachel Glees (1992)

Station Island (1984)

The Haw Lantern (1987); Whitbread Award, 1987

New Selected Poems, 1966-1987 (1990)

Seeing Things (1991)

(ed) *The May Anthology of Oxford and Cambridge Poetry* (1993)

Forthcoming: *The Spirit Level* (May 1996)

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Resort in uproar as hotelier lures the homeless

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TINY Norfolk fishing port where Vaughan Williams and Churchill used to take the sea air is about to become home to 80 down-and-outs.

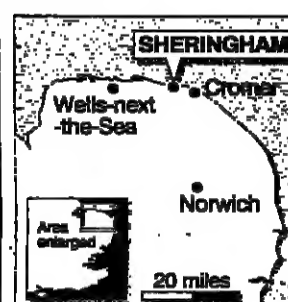
Mike McGuire, an Australian property developer, has advertised in *The Big Issue*, the newspaper for the homeless, for tenants to fill a Victorian seafront hotel he is buying in the resort of Sheringham and 42 people have responded. "Stay homeless in the city, or get a life," the advertisement says.

He even offers to fill in claim forms so the tenants can get housing benefit to pay most of their rent. However, there are too few job opportunities in Sheringham for the town's own youth, and with its reputation for long-living, the visitors could be on benefit for decades to come.

The proposal has scandalised the town. David Stebbins, council chairman, said: "Everyone has been very anti. We haven't got the social services and health facilities to cope with an influx of homeless people." Margaret Craske, a county councillor, said: "Bringing people to a quiet town from the cities will not solve their problems."

The Burlington Hotel, a splendid pile, has been empty for four years. It is being sold for £200,000. "It is regarded as a white elephant because the tourist market won't fill it any more," said Mr McGuire, 46. "It was no longer viable."

He said: "There have been some bigoted comments from people who attach a stigma to the homeless. I have been in England for five years and I find this head-in-the-sand mentality which some Poms have to be a pain in the neck."



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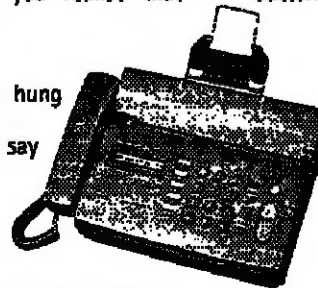
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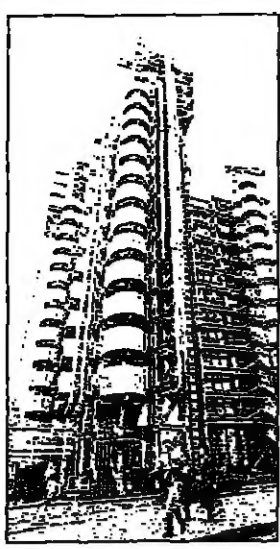
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SHARP

INTELLIGENT THINKING

By RICHARD DUCE



The Lloyd's building

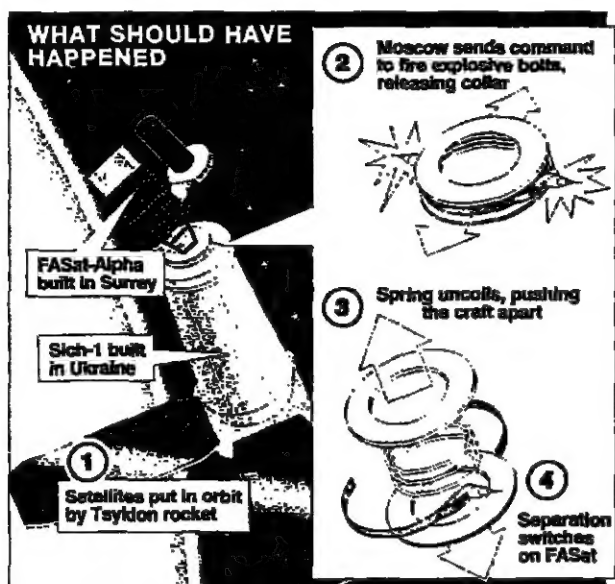
The exterior ductwork covers 30 per cent of the structure. Worst affected by rust are the hot-water pipes. They are being replaced.

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Dr Jeff Ward, technical

The failure also delays

Piggy-back launches are becoming increasingly popular as more companies and nations clamour to launch satellites for telecommunications



Professor Martin Sweeting of Surrey University with the FASat-Alpha satellite, now out of control in space

Dr. Ward said the company had seen nine of its micro-

The hugely expensive Hubble was launched with a flawed mirror, and Nasa re-

By A STAFF REPORTER

As the new Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, has yet to be installed, the decision rests with the Bishop of Whitby.

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Parents discussing measles today have not seen the damage its complications used to cause in the pre-antibiotic era. Nor is everybody aware that antibiotics do not protect the sufferer from the pneumonia which comes on early in the course of the disease, the encephalitis that starts in about one case in 1500 two or three weeks later, or, in a very few cases, the fatal neurological complication, sub-acute sclerosing panencephalitis, which may attack a measles victim many years later.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

The measles vaccine is made from a weakened live virus that causes an infection so mild that the patient usually does not notice. After last year's campaign by the Department of Health to vaccinate eight million children between five and 16, 1,198 notifications of ill health were received. These were not nec-

essarily related to the vaccination. There were no deaths among the eight million children inoculated, and most of the reactions complained of were mild and self-limiting.

General Practitioner magazine reports that a handful of patients attributed such diverse troubles as the start of epilepsy, rheumatoid arthritis and post-viral fatigue syndrome to the vaccination. The Medical Control Agency, which garners reports of adverse reactions to drugs or inoculations, says the claims were investigated, but there was no direct evidence implicating vaccination.

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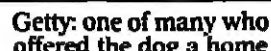
TIM

السلامة

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

Bullseye made news after being "arrested" last week by police officers who found him keeping watch beneath the broken window of a burgled house in Cramlington, Northumberland. The burglars had fled but the police had the bright idea of releasing the black-and-white dog in the hope he would lead them to

"One caller, a Mrs Getty, seemed just the ticket. She said she had a country home in Buckinghamshire and that Bullseye would spend most of his time there with other dogs. She had lost a dog earlier in

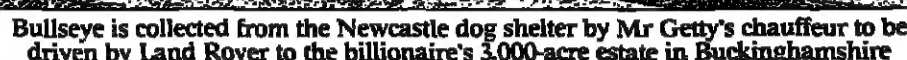


It was only later that staff at the shelter realised which Mrs Getty they had been talking to. Her husband's reputation as a philanthropist is legendary — he is reputed to have given away £120 million in the past ten years — but

Earlier this year Mr Getty contributed £1 million of the £7.6 million needed to keep Canova's *The Three Graces* in Britain, thus preventing the sculpture from going to the Getty Museum in Malibu.

□ Tom Price, a potholing enthusiast, abseiled 90 feet into a disused mine shaft to rescue a Jack Russell terrier. The dog, the pet of Katie Miles, a teenager, had slipped down the shaft while chasing rabbits near Bow Street, Oxford.

Leading article, page 21



Genuine fake

A Victorian imitation of the Penny Red was sold for £12,650 at auction at Christie's. In 1856 the Post Office was worried that fake stamps might flood the market, and asked an engraver to reproduce the design, to see how accurately it could be done.

By TIM JONES

Mr Serafinowicz, of Banstead, Surrey, denies the charges. His bail was renewed on condition that he does not leave Britain, does not apply for a passport and continues to live at his present address.

Plus £300 Cashback.*

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Wine hosts
the grapes of
Britain

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Changing tastes: a decent glass at the local, venison by post but a let-down in store

Wine hosts banish the grapes of wrath from Britain's pubs

By LEYLA LINTON

PUBS were praised yesterday for serving a decent glass of wine at last, after years of second-rate plonk.

Alisdair Aird, editor of the *Good Pub Guide*, launched the 1996 edition by celebrating a trend towards better-quality wine, caused by the facts that more pubs serve food and more women use pubs.

"When we started the guide in 1982, a dusty bottle with the cork left out, stored on an unpleasant looking shelf was the rule," he said. "There has

been a tremendous improvement." The guide recommends 280 pubs that serve particularly good wine and has named The Cot at Dartington, Devon, as Wine Pub of the Year. The Cot serves ten types by the glass and has a further 41 on its list.

Mark Amear, bar manager at the Cot, said: "When customers are offered a choice of ten wines, the feedback is excellent. People always seem pleased and impressed."

Adams Wine Merchants,

part of Adams Breweries which supplies 120 pubs in the east of England, said that its wine turnover had doubled in the past five years. Simon Loftus, the managing director, said: "Wine in pubs has a bad name because so many publicans can't be bothered. They choose the cheapest and serve it lukewarm in horrible glasses at outrageous prices. Then they say there's no demand for it. Pubs that serve good wine at sensible prices win loyal customers."

Jane MacQuitty, wine correspondent of *The Times*, said although some pubs were beginning to serve better wine, there were still problems. "Many pubs are still tied to the breweries, whose wine divisions produce dreary wine. Sometimes they are stored upright and kept under bright lights."

The Guide named the riverside Boat, at Ashleworth Quay, Gloucestershire, as Unspoilt Pub of the Year. The back parlour has red tiles, overstuffed chairs, a grandfather clock and dresser as well as shove-ha'penny, dominoes and cards. The pub has been in family hands since 1730.

Jacquie Nicholls, the landlady, said: "I've carried on what my aunts and grandfather and his uncle before that have done. We love the place and try to keep it the same."

The 1996 *Good Pub Guide* is published today by Vermilion at £13.99.



Pride of place: Jacquie Nicholls, landlady at the Boat, named yesterday as the Unspoilt Pub of the Year

Mail order delivers gourmet foods

VENISON, alligator meat, Japanese mushrooms and champagne chocolate truffles are just some of the foods being sent through the post after an upsurge in gourmet mail order.

The British are becoming increasingly discerning consumers and many long-established food companies have recently started postal deliveries to meet demand.

Benedict Hayes of Merchant Gourmet, which introduced the service last year,

said: "Gourmet foods used to have a yuppie image, but people are being more adventurous and are looking for authentic flavours when they cook at home. Sometimes mail order is the only way to get them."

Williamson and Magor, a family firm which owns tea estates in Darjeeling, Assam, Kenya and Tanzania, has just launched a Tea Club to sell direct. Malcolm Ferris-Lay, sales manager and taster, said: "People are becoming

more discerning but they cannot always buy the type they want. This will give the opportunity to do so."

Barrow Boar, based at Fosters Farm, near Yeovil, Somerset, has been selling French and Polish boar since 1984. Owners Nigel Dauncey and Christina Baskerville started a mail order service last year. It accounts for 10 per cent of sales. The company supplies exotic meats including kangaroo, crocodile, locusts and peacock. Deer Force 10, in

Newton Abbot, sells venison by courier.

Gourmet foods can be sampled at the third International Festival of Fine Wine and Food, until Sunday at the Kensington Olympia, sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* with *Decanter* magazine. Tickets cost £15 each or £25 for two on the door. Opening hours: today 11am-7pm; tomorrow 10.30am-3.30pm and 4.30pm-8.30pm; Sunday 11am-6pm. No admittance to under-18s.



Best Pub: Queens Head, Troutbeck, Cumbria (above). Licenses: Ian and Anne Barrett, Marquis of Lorne, Melrose, Dorset. Own Brew: Pubs: Cumbria Arms, Carlisle, Cumbria. Beer: Mrs Graham Tibbels, Blackwood Arms, Littleworth, Common, Bucks. Town Pub: Whitelocks, Leeds. Unspoilt Country Pub: The Boat, Ashleworth Quay, Gloucestershire. Family Pub: Wight House, Chisle, Isle of Wight. Dining Pub: Chiswick Arms, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Fish Pub: Drove Arms, Broadbury, Devon. Vegetarian Pub: Drunken Duck, Haverhill, Cambridgeshire. Sandwich Pub: Three Acres, Shalfleet, West Yorkshire.

Supermarkets accused of ignoring quality vintages to keep prices low

By KATHYON KNIGHT

SUPERMARKETS have been accused of sacrificing decent vintages to fill their racks with cheaper, newer wine. An obsession with rigid pricing policies and a worldwide shortage of quality wine after poor harvests last year have led to a

decline in good selections at most large chains, according to Harry Eyres, author of the *Which? Wine Guide 1996*.

Consumers, many of whose introduction to wine comes at the supermarket, have a limited choice as many stores concentrate on price points—around the £2.99 and £3.99

mark. "This can mean only one thing for the customer, sacrifice of quality to price. Why must wine, unlike most other foodstuffs, be tied to rigid pricepoints?" Mr Eyres said.

He laments the prevalence of younger and often cheaper wines in supermarkets. "There is a virtual disappearance of mature wines

from supermarkets," he said. "With their fixation on this new vintage, supermarkets are depriving us of the multi-dimensional experience that mature wine can provide."

The guide names the 200 best wine merchants in the UK and votes Noel Young Wines in Trumpton, Cambridgeshire, as best indepen-

dent wine merchant. Mr Young, 26, whose store specialises in wines from off the beaten track and the New World, said that supermarkets often muscled out smaller retailers by deliberately making losses on some wine sales. "Aggressive pricing like this can devalue the true worth of the wine. It is a shame to

bring people's perception of wine down by concentrating prices downwards," he said.

Waitrose was voted best supermarket for wines and singled out for praise as a store which concentrated on variety rather than pricing. The *Which? Wine Guide 1996* is published today, price £13.99.

Oysters a fine catch at fish counter

HIGH winds and bad weather are making it difficult to predict the price of fish, so shoppers are advised to be adaptable. Shellfish, however, is in plentiful supply this weekend.

Pacific (gigas) oysters are excellent value at 45p each while native oysters will cost from 80p for smaller sizes. Mussels are about £2.25 for a 2kg bag.

Announced best buys this week:

Asda: six Linda McCartney frozen sausages £1.09, sultana cake 69p, sage and onion stuffed chicken £1.74 a kg. Budgens: St Ivel custard sauce 59p for 400g, carrots 25p a pound, six Harvest Bake mixed rolls 59p. Co-op: Twinings lemon tea £1.59 for 30g, Macleans 100ml

WEEKEND SHOPPING

freshmint toothpaste pump £1.39, Cox's apples 49p a lb. Harrods: salmon en croûte £4.30 for 100g, smoked Scottish venison £2.20 for 100g. Iceland: 680g smoked haddock fillets £2.99, six-portion raspberry pavlova £1.99, 9in San Marco Americano pizza £1.49.

Marks & Spencer: 600g frozen chunky cod in crumbs £3.49, four Williams pears £1.29, 100g asparagus £1.49. Morrisons: 170g tuna chunks in brine 35p, 85g sage and onion stuffing 24p, celtic cabbage 35p each.

Safeway: loose white seeded grapes 45p a lb, skinned cod fillets £5.93 a kg, spartan apples 49p a lb. Sainsbury's: frozen New Zealand lamb leg £2.18 a kg, 454g Lincolnshire sausages 99p, 450g blackcurrant cheesecake £1.39.

Somerfield: 5kg pack potatoes £1.34, 1kg pack oranges 39p, 284g garlic kiev £1.49.

Tesco: pork loin £3.55 a kg, fresh smoked haddock, £2.49 a lb, courgettes, 55p a lb. Waitrose: 450g turkey mince £1.49, 227g hayati dates 69p, satsumas £1.59 a kg, 4 x 150g low-fat yoghurt 89p.

You close your laptop. You push back your seat and adjust your footrest. A taste of Brie. A sip of Bordeaux.

You turn the sound up a notch and hope you won't be arriving too soon.

Pressure grows for allowing leader to choose his Cabinet



Wilson: highly regarded

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR leaders are pressing for Tony Blair to be given the right to appoint a Cabinet of his choice rather than have one forced on him by the votes of the parliamentary party.

Senior members of the Shadow Cabinet are pressing for a relaxation, or even abolition, of the rule that requires Mr Blair to choose his first Cabinet from the 19 frontbenchers elected each year by Labour MPs. Although he would like more freedom to bring in MPs from outside the Shadow Cabinet, he has made clear that he has no plans yet to try to change the rules.

Brian Wilson, the highly regarded frontbench industry spokesman, and Clare Short, the spokeswoman on women's rights, are said by Labour insiders to be two such MPs whom Mr Blair would be keen to have in his first Cabinet. Alistair Darling, the party's City spokesman, and Tessa Jowell, a spokesman on health, have also greatly impressed him.

Some members of the Shadow Cabinet believe that Mr Blair's dominance is now so great that the parliamentary party would comply if he asked it to scrap the rule. But some modernisers fear that the move would be blocked by the Left and older MPs. They point out that those Shadow Cabinet members at greatest risk of being dropped would also oppose the plan.

An idea that is gaining ground among senior party figures is for the elections to the Shadow Cabinet to be suspended next year. Instead Mr Blair would appoint the 19-strong Shadow Cabinet — in effect a Cabinet-in-waiting. Elections would be restored only when Labour returned to Opposition.

Mr Blair is expected to carry out a small reshuffle of the Shadow Cabinet after the elections next month. This year, for the first time, the Chief Whip will be appointed from the ranks of the Shadow Cabinet. There is growing speculation that Mr Blair will ask Donald Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, to do the job, which he regards as being of the

utmost importance. Mr Dewar is in charge of Labour's review of the welfare state, one of the main policy priorities before the election. But Mr Blair is understood to regard him so highly, and the job of Chief Whip so important, that he may be prepared to move him, if so Harriet Harman, the employment spokesman, is regarded as the front-runner to succeed him in the social security brief.

Ms Harman, whose present portfolio will disappear after the Shadow Cabinet elections because of John Major's decision to merge the education and employment departments, has had a good year and was instrumental in defusing the controversy over the proposed national minimum wage in the

run-up to the conference. She is an ally of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, with whom she would have to work closely on the review, which could involve difficult decisions on universal benefits.

Insiders argue that the Labour leadership should now be trying to push MPs such as Mr Wilson and Ms Short for next month's elections. Traditionally Labour leaders have been reluctant to press for their favoured candidates. Allies of Mr Blair point out the need to counter a possible left-wing backlash against Ms Short over her robust defence of the national executive's decision to reject Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate.



Jowell: impressed Blair

56 per cent back nuclear missile system

Blair victorious as party votes to keep Trident

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR secured his most surprising victory of the conference week yesterday when Labour delegates voted for the retention of the Trident submarine nuclear missile system.

In a decision that symbolised the way the party is changing under Mr Blair, the conference voted against unilateral disarmament, an issue on which it has almost always defeated the leadership. The move brings the Labour conference into line with the multilateralist policy on which Labour fought the last general election.

At recent conferences delegates have backed the scrapping of Trident, only for the leadership swiftly to make clear that it would not be bound by the vote. Delegates also decided against pressing their usual calls for defence spending to be cut to the level of the European average. It was the first time in recent memory that the leadership had not been embarrassed by the rank and file on defence.

Yesterday's majority vote of 56 per cent will make it easier for Labour to rebut the Tory charge that it is at heart a unilateralist party. Even so there were the usual passionate calls against Trident.

Gill Collins (Orpington) said that Britain's retention of the system violated the nuclear non-proliferation pact. "An incoming Labour government should honour this treaty and decommission Trident, as called for by delegates at our 1993 and 1994 conferences. I cannot help feeling that if the NEC and the



Shadow Cabinet had actively promoted that policy, the intensity of feeling against Trident would be much greater than it is."

She said a survey had found that 50 per cent of people in Britain thought nuclear weapons unnecessary. "The bad old days of the Labour defence bogey are going. The Tories are losing their ammunition. Trident is a massive, costly white elephant that should soon be with the dinosaurs."

But earlier, Lee Vasey (Darlington) had said: "The world remains a dangerous place. As Bosnia has shown us. We must ensure that our defence forces have the necessary resources and equipment. In this way we can continue to support UN and Nato in peacekeeping missions around the world. Old responses are no longer adequate. That's why I believe the motion calling for Trident to be scrapped to be misleading and inaccurate."

John Reid, a Labour defence spokesman, called the anti-Trident motion a "pious slogan". He condemned its aim

as "opting out of the world disarmament process". He added: "I understand the sentiment. But it is wrong because it is one-sided disarmament."

Urging delegates to defeat the move, Dr Reid said the party had shown this week that it was ready to make tough choices because it preferred to be in power taking decisions rather than in opposition talking about decisions. He told them not to sideline Labour's chance of influencing world disarmament.

Mr Blair said later: "This is one more sign that the Labour Party is now a modern, left-of-centre party, totally in tune with the interests of the British people. This vote shows a new maturity in the party's attitude to defence."

Before the conference the media claimed the party would be "in revolt" against the leadership, he said. "But on issue after issue, we have seen the party united, sensible and determined to build the Britain we all want to create."

Labour's backing for Trident came as the party stepped up its pressure on France to scrap its nuclear testing programme in the South Pacific. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, accused the French government of undermining moves towards a comprehensive international test ban treaty.

"Call off your dogs now," he urged President Chirac. "You have no right to ignore the united protests of every nation of the South Pacific. Six years after the collapse of the Cold War, you have no need to test more nuclear weapons."

Cook looks at hiring business people as diplomats

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

BUSINESSMEN could replace career diplomats as Britain's ambassadors abroad to help to give the Foreign Office a commercial edge and boost exports, Labour said yesterday.

In a move which could result in entrepreneurs such as Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin group, becoming our man in Budapest, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that Britain's embassies had much to learn from businessmen with practical experience in winning export orders.

Although the move will cause uproar in Britain's embassies across the world, the Foreign Office gave a cautious welcome to the idea and even hinted that it was already considering a similar project, making senior ambassadors' jobs available to outside bidders. "The idea is not so outrageous," a spokesman said.

He added that 30 per cent of Foreign Office staff abroad were working on export promotion. Many of them already had wide experience in industry.

Although Mr Cook refused to suggest which businessmen might be a good ambassador, he said Labour would want people with "experience, drive and flair".

Speaking at the party conference in Brighton, Mr Cook told delegates that Britain exported less to Eastern Europe than Germany. "That is why, as Foreign Secretary, I will want to find out whether there are people in British industry with experience and success in exports who might make suitable



ambassadors to some countries with strategic markets," he said.

Later Mr Cook said that the Foreign Office had recently made "considerable progress" in pushing British exports abroad. "However, they tend not to have direct hands-on experience in obtaining export orders," he said. "It would be good and useful having someone at the top coming from an export background. It is important not just in embassies but across the foreign service."

He did not want businessmen looking for a cushy retirement. "I don't want people coming in at the end of their career," he said. "I want people who are at the

top, with experience, drive and flair. There may well be something that they can teach the Foreign Office."

However, he said Labour did not want to turn upside down the whole Foreign Office career structure. There would only be a few "businessmen-ambassadors", they would be on temporary contracts, and they would be targeted at specific countries where they had experience.

The Confederation of British Industry was lukewarm. "We obviously believe that boosting trade should be a fundamental part of an ambassador's role," a spokesman said. "We are pleased with the steps that the Foreign Office has taken already

to this regard." In a wide-ranging speech on foreign affairs, Mr Cook promised that Labour would introduce strict new rules on arms exports, especially to repressive regimes. "That is why the Labour Government will not licence the export of arms to any regime that will use them for internal oppression or external aggression," he said.

If Tory ministers had stuck by that principle, they would "not have found themselves in the dock before the Scott inquiry" into the arms-to-Iraq affair. The case provided a revealing example of "how it corrupts Britain's values to deal in secret with dictators who do not share those values," Mr Cook said.

Straw calls for tough action on young criminals

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW announced tough proposals yesterday to make young offenders do community work for their victims as part of a programme to create "a new civic society".

The Shadow Home Secretary told the Brighton conference that a Labour government would "rip young offenders in the bud, providing swift intervention and effective punishment". Under a reparation order, the offender would be told to work for the victim, with their consent, or for the community for three months. A separate order would require offenders to undertake intensive education.

Mr Straw made no apology for his recent comments about "winos and squeegee merchants" which had angered many leftwingers. He made clear that he blamed the Government for people sleeping on the streets, but argued that people had a right not to be threatened by the homeless.

Poverty caused crime, but crime exacerbated poverty. "Begging on the streets and sleeping rough in shop doorways is no way to have it five," he said. "Everyone felt uneasy, fearful and guilty about poverty, but walking by on the other side, averting one's eyes, hoping that someone else will



Straw: wants to build new civic society

solve the problem, is not good enough," Mr Straw said.

"It's this Government which is responsible for creating the conditions in which these poverty-stricken people live," he added. "Labour will remove the causes of deprivation and despair. But in return, the community has the right to expect less threatening behaviour on the streets."

Conference organisers denied delegates any chance to express concerns about Mr Straw's comments. A spokesman said that the remarks were not called for.

In a robust defence of Labour's tougher approach to crime, Mr Straw said he had had to change the way they lived because of high crime rates. "Too many people are trapped at home, frightened to walk down the street at night and afraid of getting into an empty train carriage."

Echoing a theme used by Tony Blair in his speech on Tuesday he added: "Our challenge is to create a new civic society out of a nation whose fabric has been torn apart by fear, distrust and crime."

Labour would require councils to work with police to make their areas safe. It would free police officers from needless paperwork and put them back on the beat.

On question of equality, Labour is much more 'old' than 'new'

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

A running theme of the Labour conference has been the often elusive distinction between "old" and "new" Labour. Personalities, election tactics and political positioning obviously play a part. But there are also deeper differences of ideology, over the meaning of equality. These have emerged during the week's rare passionate moments, notably during Monday's debate on social security and Wednesday morning's discussion of education.

The traditional case has been put most trenchantly by that veteran of the old Labour Right, Roy Hattersley. He believes equality is more than just equal opportunity. Democratic socialist writers from R.H. Tawney, through Anthony Crosland, Mr Hattersley and, most recently, Peter Hain, in his *Ayes to the Left*, have argued for a stronger definition of equality related to outcome. This obviously does not mean anything like mathematical equality of incomes, but it does imply equality of treatment and, above all, of resources, as Mr Hattersley argued in his 1987 book *Choose Freedom*. Mr Hain quotes the latter to argue that

"socialism cannot defend the privileges of a few if the aspirations of the many for freedom and real opportunity of outcome (and not simply of choice) are to be achieved. It is not enough to have some theoretical 'choice' of equality of resources: a prerequisite for choice is to be exercised in practice."

Advocates of "new" Labour regard such an approach as unsustainable and incompatible with equality of opportunity. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have both argued that the priority should be to give everyone an equal chance. Their favourite theme is opportunity. This is criticised, by among others Mr Hattersley and Mr Hain, as being too weak, indeed of involving an acceptance of the new right's agenda. But defenders of "new" Labour disagree with the primacy of individualism or market principles and believe that the state has a vital role in ensuring true equality of opportunity in access to education, health and employment. Their emphasis is less on removing the advan-

tages of some than targeting help on the disadvantaged.

"This is not just a theoretical debate over interpretations of political philosophers like John Rawls. It has direct practical implications. The 'old' Labour view involves a commitment not just to redistributive tax policies but also to universal welfare benefits and comprehensive social services. Mr Brown has reaffirmed his belief in a broadly progressive tax system, not least in eliminating tax loopholes and privileges enjoyed by the well-off. But international pressures mean that top tax rates in Britain cannot be much higher than those overseas. There are limits to the public's willingness to pay higher taxes."

Similarly, the current debate challenges the post-war Labour view of the welfare state. This has been seen primarily as a means of protecting the vulnerable, the old, the disabled and the sick, and as one of the weapons of redistribution. "New" Labour recognises the worries about a dependency culture and believes the social security sys-

tem should be reoriented to help people into work, Mr Blair on Tuesday talked of giving single parents the chance of childcare and training so that they can earn a wage.

The sharpest clashes have been on education, not least because many Labour activists are teachers and governors. Comprehensive schools have long been seen as the key to greater equality, and it is argued that the Tories' attempt to introduce choice "choice" via grant-maintained schools is an "illusion" and inherently divisive. "New" Labour recognises the failures of many comprehensive schools and views arguments about structures as secondary to direct efforts to improve standards. It accepts diversity in the type and organisation of schools to permit parents more choice, though with no financial advantages for some schools over others.

Mr Blair has cemented his leadership this week and brushed aside his critics. But at this deeper level of the meaning of equality, the heart of the party still lies more with "old" than with "new" Labour.

PETER RIDDELL

PR referendum supported

THE leadership's plans to hold a referendum on electoral reform were given convincing support by delegates yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The decision will help Labour's relations with the Liberal Democrats without binding the party to changing the first-past-the-post system of electing MPs. After a short debate the conference rejected a motion that claimed that a

referendum would endanger the party's prospects of holding power and would provide a platform for right-wing, fascist and racist groups.

Alistair Watson, of Glasgow Pollock, said any system of proportional representation would lead to coalitions. "Why should we get into bed with the decaying corpse of liberalism," he said. "We should always remember that to de-

pend on the Liberals is to dance with the devil."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said he believed in the present system, but John Smith, the late Labour leader, had promised in 1993 that the people would decide. "Tragically John died before he could redeem his promise. I ask you to ensure his pledge is reaffirmed today."

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Ministers urged to pre-empt Labour reform of Lords

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is considering reforming the House of Lords to pre-empt Labour's plans to abolish the right of hereditary peers to vote in the Upper House.

The Earl of Cranborne, the Leader of the House of Lords, has had informal discussions over the past year with more than one hundred Tory peers, both working and hereditary. Several alternatives have been suggested, including allowing hereditary peers to vote every five years for a proportion of their colleagues to represent them. Other peers have suggested allowing hereditary members to use the Lords as a club and be allowed to listen to debates but not speak or vote.

Some Labour and Liberal Democrat peers have also been discreetly sounded out for their views and backing. Many of the 700 hereditary peers, who are mostly on the Tory benches, are becoming nervous about their future, believing that a Labour victory is likely. Most of the Tory front bench would be affected, including Lord Cranborne, whose title goes back to Elizabethan times and whose ancestors include three Prime Ministers.

Tory peers insist that the Labour policy is indefensible

because it would leave the Upper House dependent on a Prime Minister's patronage. But they appear divided on whether introducing a measure of change would merely open the floodgates. Lord Selborne, a hereditary Tory peer, said: "Reform has been necessary since 1911 but it must not go off at half-cock with Labour. Any alternative must be as effective as the present system and not just be made up of political appointees."

Another Tory hereditary peer, who supports the idea of electing a core of hereditary peers, said, "hereditary peers haven't got a leg to stand on democratically, but the system works jolly well. We are much cheaper than either MPs or MEPs. We have the time to tinker with badly drafted bills, we bring a wide range of expertise into Parliament and we range in age from 25 to 95. But we are going to have to start fighting, or we will be scrapped before the electorate has woken up to the issue."

Many of the 400 working peers also want the Government to announce its own proposals. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare said: "Labour has made clear this is going to be a priority. We must steel their thunder by carrying out

our own reforms first and by being bold."

Lord Cranborne is a close friend of John Major, in the summer he helped to run his party leadership campaign and will have had the backing of the Prime Minister for the informal consultation.

The issue became more urgent this week when Tony Blair was loudly cheered for reiterating in his party conference speech a pledge to remove hereditary peers' right to vote and in the long-term to change the Upper House into an elected chamber.

Tory peers had been hoping that the Labour hierarchy was backing away from the idea because of its cost and the technical problems of getting the constitutional Bill through both Houses. But Labour whips are convinced that they can get the first part through within two years.

Liberal Democrat peers who are committed to a directly-elected second chamber are also concerned about Labour's plans. They want Paddy Ashdown to say whether he would support Labour's "messy half-measures" or stick to the party's all-or-nothing policy.

At the Liberal Democrat conference, Mr Ashdown joked that Labour was trying



Cranborne has held informal discussions with more than 100 other Tory peers

to make the Lords into the most powerful quango in the land: "I would rather rely on the serendipitous opinion of the illegitimate progeny of past kings' mistresses, than the appointees of a modern Prime Minister." But Liberal Democrat peers want to know whether, if a Labour Govern-

ment is elected, they will be expected to back Labour's vote for the expulsion of many of their colleagues.

Crossbenchers are also concerned at Labour proposals. One, the Earl of Carnarvon, chaired a committee looking into reform earlier this year. He said: "Labour's proposals

are ill-thought out and could lead to years of constitutional tinkering and uncertainty and a House that is more rational but less effective. If the country decides it wants to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers, they should probably be replaced immediately by an elected second chamber."

Downing Street to put Major on the Internet

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR is to go on the Internet, allowing computer-literate voters to e-mail the Prime Minister with complaints, questions and comments.

Downing Street hopes to be on-line some time next year. A spokesman said yesterday: "We are very serious and we are looking at it at this moment."

The announcement came as the Government for the first time published an e-mail address for a Cabinet minister and as the Government's own centre for information systems, CCTA, won an industry award as "Internet User of the Year".

The Cabinet Office is bracing itself for a deluge of e-mail about government policy as Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, announced where he could be contacted (rfreeman@ccta.gov.uk).

Whitehall and the CCTA are exploring how swiftly other ministers can be made similarly accessible.

"This is a snowball that won't go away," said a Cabinet Office spokeswoman. "But we have to get the systems in place. It does not look good if we advertise a service saying e-mail a minister and then we have to reply on an old-fashioned piece of paper."

The CCTA is also negotiating with House of Commons authorities about a scheme to make every MP accessible to their constituents via the Internet.

Downing Street has been stung into action by the fact that the American public has been able to e-mail President Clinton at the White House for some time. It also hopes to upstage a claim from Labour yesterday that Tony Blair would be the first prime minister accessible to the electorate by e-mail.

A Labour spokeswoman said: "Tony already has an e-mail address and the intention is that he will have an e-mail address at 10 Downing Street when he moves in."

Labour also hopes that every government minister will be on the Internet.

The Government published e-mail addresses for Mr Freeman and his deputy John Horam, as well as for Ian Taylor, a junior Trade and Industry Minister as the Government Centre for Information Systems won the "Internet User of the Year" award from Computing magazine.

The service provides information via the Internet from 115 organisations and 60 government departments and agencies, including ministerial speeches and statistical data. Pictures of the Metropolitan Police Art and Antiques Squad's top ten stolen items of the month, minutes of the Chancellor's monthly meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England and Ofsted's inspection reports on schools are among the information that is electronically available.

MORE than 5,000 "cyber delegates" have visited Labour's party conference via the Internet, it was disclosed yesterday (James Landale writes).

Graham Allen, Labour's Shadow Minister for the Media, said that 400,000 pages of information had been downloaded and more than 300 people had taken part in on-line debates. Labour claims its "virtual conference" in Brighton is the first of its kind, allowing people from across the globe to read speeches and take part in debates and questionnaires.

"The number of visitors to Labour's virtual conference illustrates the benefit of allowing people to participate via the Internet," Mr Allen said. "This is only the beginning of building a genuine digital democracy in the UK which will transform the nature of politics. As Tony Blair's speech confirmed, New Labour is determined to maximise the potential of the Internet and the information superhighway."

Daily Mail group toys with idea of changing sides

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR



English thinks Blair is more fun at lunch

BRITAIN'S biggest Tory-supporting newspaper group is toying with the possibility of supporting Tony Blair at the general election, its chairman claimed yesterday.

The tantalising prospect that new Labour might be endorsed by *The Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard* was held out by Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, in an article from the Brighton conference.

He revealed details of a conversation

with the group proprietor, Viscount Rothermere, after a recent two-hour chat with the Labour leader.

Sir David also wrote favourably of Mr Blair's performances during lunches at the group's headquarters. Comparing him with past leaders, Sir David said that it was not until Mr Blair took over that lunches with a Labour leader became fun again, "much more fun, incidentally, than when members of the current Government came gloomily to dine. In contrast Blair - whether he was alone or with his minders - radiated frankness and honesty."

Sir David's teasing intervention provoked amusement, cynicism and disbelief among Labour ranks at Brighton. Nobody thought there was the remotest chance that the *Mail* would line up behind Labour. However, party leaders did welcome the discomfort that the article was clearly intended to cause the Conservatives, who meet in Blackpool next week. "It is a tease, nothing more," said one senior Labour source. "They are trying to make the Government get its act together."

Sir David said in his article that the Mr Blair's Brighton speech had net-

ther confirmed nor dispelled all the group's suspicions about Labour. "But equally we are not without scepticism towards the present Government. So we feel we must continue our dialogue with Tony Blair to the point where we can accurately reflect our opinion of him come the election: whether to attack him, remain neutral or even endorse him."

Musing aloud with Lord Rothermere, he had tried to visualise *Mail* editorials in support of Labour. "Could such a thing even be possible? I wondered. Well, it certainly would not be impossible, David," he had replied.

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Decline of heavy industry blamed for danger lapping close to basements, tunnels and foundations

Water levels undermine safety of city buildings

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

WATER levels below some of Britain's cities are rising twice as fast as forecast, sharply increasing the risk of flooding and damage to buildings, tunnels and underground railway networks.

New research shows that the water table is climbing by more than two metres a year in parts of London, lapping close to Tube lines and some deep basements. Similar rises are reported in Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow and Nottingham.

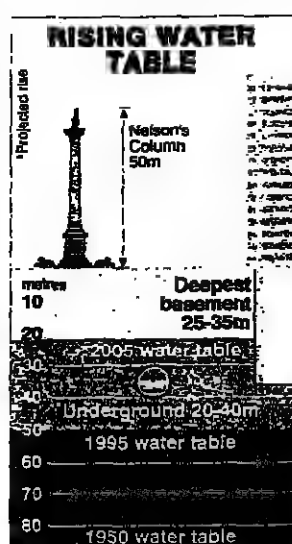
Engineers say that scores of buildings, especially those built during the 1970s and 1980s, are at risk of flooding unless swift action is taken. Some may become so unstable they will need demolition.

With fears that expanding clay means that some could virtually "pop out of the ground", rising water tables may also lead to chemicals and other pollutants being washed out of soils and into rivers in the North West and the Mid-

lands. The blame for the rise is being put on the decline of heavy industry which once took billions of gallons a day from boreholes. Engineers say the problem is aggravated by leaky mains.

The water table in London is now about 50 metres below Trafalgar Square. In the 1950s it was about 90 metres below. If levels continue to rise by more than two metres a year, large areas of the capital and outlying areas could be affected within 15 years. Some deep basements are at depths of about 25 metres. Some car parks go down to 35 metres.

Dr Brian Simpson, of Ove Arup and Partners, who led research into the danger on behalf of the Construction Industry Research Association, said yesterday: "There are some places in the City where water levels are coming up by two to three metres a year." The previous estimate, in 1989, was one metre a year. A North West Water official

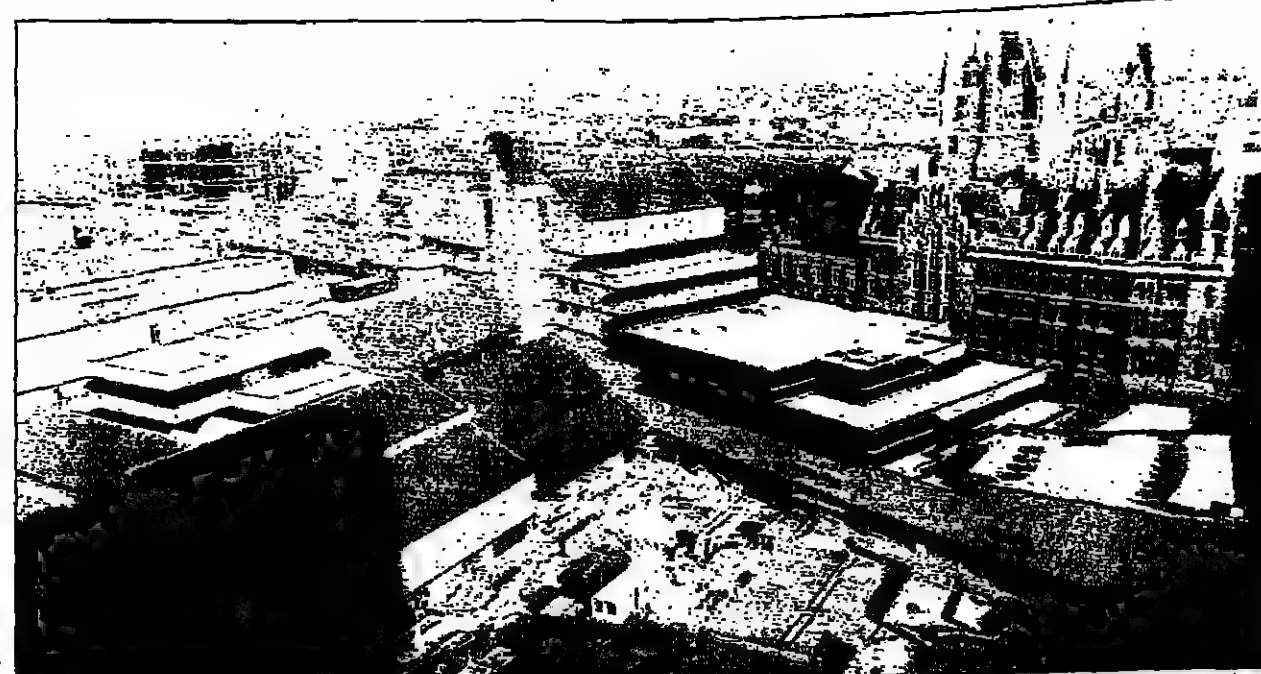


Lancashire mainly because the aquifers were contaminated and there are now higher standards to meet under the EC's drinking water directive.

Phil Green, a consulting engineer with Kirkpatrick and Partners, said yesterday: "A large amount of London's water once came from underground. Recently there has been a switch towards surface waters, especially the Thames. It is being taken out upstream and put into pipes. These leak into the ground." An estimated 15 per cent of water is lost from Thames Water mains.

The impact of the rising water tables is being monitored by the National Rivers Authority. A spokesman said that some buildings in Birmingham were already having to pump out basements, but it might be possible to tap the rising ground water to boost supplies from reservoirs and rivers.

Neil Dancer, assistant director of transport at Birmingham City Council,



The new British Library near St Pancras: concern over the water table added to its construction costs

said that BT was having to pump out telecommunications tunnels under the city. The city had identified danger areas, some of which are already affected and others at risk by the turn of the century. These include Kingstanding and Witton in the area around Spaghetti Junction.

"Water is backing up along a geological fault," said Mr

Dancer. City planners were issuing advice to prospective developers.

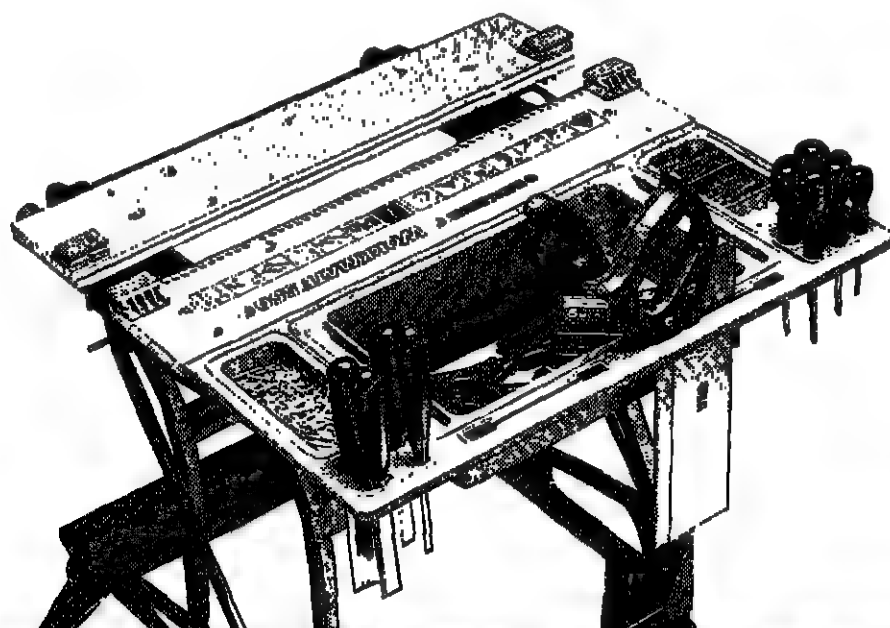
Thames Water has been investigating old bore holes in London, some of which date back to the Middle Ages. Names such as Clerkenwell and Bridewell echo the time of shallow boreholes when water was tapped from Thames gravels. Bigger holes were

drilled through London clay in the 19th century. But new plans to tap water from underground have been dropped after a £1 million study. The water is too contaminated.

Concern over rising water is already adding to construction costs. The new British Library's basements, at 35 metres deep, have been built to withstand the threat. But

scores of 1970s and 1980s buildings were not.

Dr Simpson said research indicated that London sank by up to 200mm because of the clay shrinking as water was taken. Now there was likely to be some rebound. He said: "Clay stretches vertically, so any feature that goes vertically, like an escalator, will tend to be stretched."



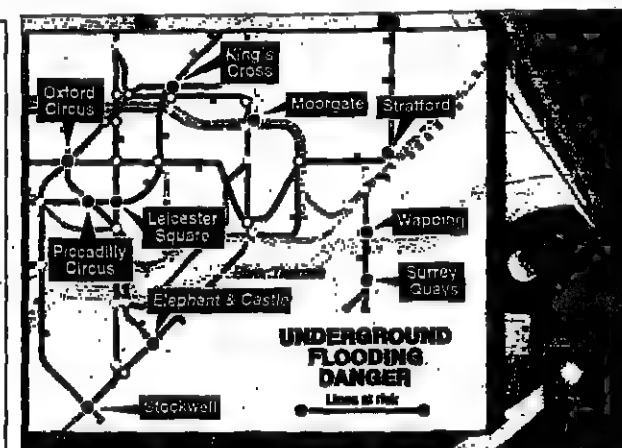
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Flood risk grows for Tube services

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

COMMUTERS in Liverpool suffered massive disruption in the summer when flooding caused by the rising water table brought much of the Merseyrail underground system to a halt for a month.

The chaos in the city has served as warning to Tube passengers in London, where ancient pumping systems are struggling to cope with a steadily rising water table.

Merseyside's difficulties have been particularly severe because of the wholesale closure of factories that once sucked up water for industrial use.

Some 40 million litres of water a day are being pumped from Merseyrail's tunnels, compared with 3 million litres before the recessions of the 1980s. The breaking point came on July 12 when severe rain storms mixed a cocktail of salt and water that played havoc with the network's signalling systems. Later that month the entire "Loop Line" was closed for four weeks after inspections showed that the flooding had caused track to buckle.

Engineers on the London Underground fear that similar problems could force the

closure of four of its deepest lines within three years. Cuts in government funding are being blamed for the postponement of emergency investment in equipment. Some of the pumps in use on the Underground date from the Victorian age.

An internal London Underground report in 1993 identified £18 million of investment needed simply to keep the network at an operational standard. However, only £9 million was made available that year and present spending on drainage is running at £5 million a year, a level regarded by London Underground chiefs as totally inadequate for tackling the flooding. The rise in the water table is estimated at more than 1.5m a year.

The sections most at risk are the Central line between Stratford and the West End, the Northern Line between Leicester Square and Moorgate and between Stockwell and the Elephant & Castle; the Piccadilly Line between Piccadilly Circus and King's Cross; and the East London Line, currently closed, between Surrey Quays and Wapping.

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Rabin faces wrath of Knesset Right on West Bank pact

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DEEP divisions in Israeli society provoked by the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Organisation were exposed last night as the 120-seat parliament conducted a heated debate on ratification of the Washington deal to extend Arab self-rule to 30 per cent of the occupied West Bank.

The argument came as Muammar Gaddafi, Libya's leader, urged other Arab nations to send Palestinians in their countries home to expose what he said was an Israeli plan to create a state for them in name only.

Facing defections from hardliners inside his Labour-led coalition, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, declared the Knesset vote a motion of confidence. After last-minute, behind-the-scenes horse-trading, most Israeli commentators predicted that he would scrape home with a razor-thin majority of one or

two. As the debate raged inside the Knesset, the main right-wing opposition, Likud party and six other right-wing groups staged a march on the parliament after a protest rally at Zion Square in the centre of Jerusalem. Extra police were drafted in, but Sheva Weiss, the Knesset Speaker, barred water cannon and mounted police from entering the Knesset grounds.

The protesters, who arrived on buses from all over Israel, said they were demonstrating against "the undermining of national security and the abandonment of the heartland of Israel".

The vote, which was expected by the early hours of today, was described by Israeli officials as the most important since Mr Rabin ousted the last Likud government in June 1992 and began a period of trading land for peace with Jordan and the PLO.

Under Israeli law, the Prime

Minister need not seek Knesset ratification for the 400-page Washington accord which will lead to Israeli troops pulling out of most of the seven main Palestinian towns in the West Bank. But Mr Rabin, anxious to maintain some semblance of national unity in advance of Israel's general election in October 1996, made it clear he would not implement the accord without it.

The tone of the bitter debate was set during his 45-minute opening speech, when right-wing deputies kept up a barrage of abuse. Mr Rabin, who has been depicted in recently printed posters as a traitor with Jewish blood on his hands, urged the 140,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank — which they refer to as Judea and Samaria — not to wreck his peace efforts.

"We know the chances, we know the risks," he told parliament. "We will do our best to



Muammar Gaddafi with thousands of expelled Palestinians at a camp between the Libyan and Egyptian borders yesterday

realise the chances and reduce the risks. We appeal from the bottom of our hearts to all citizens of the state of Israel, certainly those who live in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, like the Palestinians, to give peace a chance."

Meanwhile, Colonel Gad-

dafi was urging Arab countries to follow his example of sending home all Palestinians to expose Israel's plan to create a Palestinian state in name only. Speaking at a makeshift camp in the desert between the borders of Egypt and Libya, he told a crowd of

thousands: "The Zionist plan is to create a Palestine without Palestinians... Arab countries are taking part in this Zionist plan by allowing the Palestinians to stay in their land... If we prevent the Palestinians from the right to return, then we are particip-

ing in the imperialist plan which calls for their settlement in Arab lands forever."

Egypt will let through only the few Palestinians who have permission to enter Jordan or the self-rule areas. It is to send an envoy to Libya after failing to halt the expulsions.

Unloved kangaroo to be put on Pill

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN scientists are hoping to put millions of kangaroos on the Pill to reduce their numbers.

Dr John Rodger, director of Australia's Co-operative Research Centre for Conservation and Management of Marsupials, says a contraceptive pill would enable farmers to control the population without resorting to guns, traps or poisons. Now up to three million of the 19 million kangaroos in Australia are shot every year in official culls.

Dr Rodger says the key to developing a kangaroo contraceptive is to manipulate genes involved in fertility to make the animals allergic to their own sperm and eggs — a method tried successfully on rabbits, foxes and house mice.

Despite a "national" image, grey kangaroos are regarded as pests because they eat grass meant for cattle and sheep and destroy farmland. Such is Australia's lack of love for the animal, many restaurants offer kangaroo on the menu.

Birds forced from southern marshes ravaged by Saddam

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

DISTURBING new evidence emerged yesterday of the environmental damage being done to the marshes of southern Iraq by the policies of President Saddam Hussein which are transforming the last big wetlands in the Middle East into a desert.

A British environmentalist disclosed that bird species indigenous to the 6,000-square-mile triangle at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are abandoning habitats damaged by an Iraqi draining programme launched in the 1980s and are nesting for the first time in Kuwait.

Charles Pilcher told the English-language *Arab Times* that a number of species "common to Iraq's marshes had set up home 100 miles to the south at the man-made Jahra Pool Reserve. "This shows the first sign of birds being forced into dispersal," he said.

In addition to the systematic draining of the marshes, Saddam is accused of having used chemical weapons and pesticides in the area to prevent it becoming a refuge for Shia rebels.

"For three years now we have had a small colony of purple swamp hen in Kuwait,"



Purple swamp hen: signs of migration to Kuwait

This is a result of the marshes being drained," Mr Pilcher, a professor of pharmacology at Kuwait University, said.

Mr Pilcher, who last year co-ordinated a study by British zoologists of some affected birds, added: "We have had greatly increased numbers of Basra reed warbler."

The migration adds to evidence of the damage being done to the marshes provided by satellite and accounts from Marsh Arabs forced to flee. The World Wildlife Fund for Nature says that since 1985 more than half of Iraq's marshes have disappeared.

Saddam's engineers have built canals to divert and drain the waterways. Baghdad maintains that the draining is part of an agricultural plan to increase production by drawing salt water off waterlogged land.

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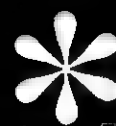


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Hurricane turns Florida Panhandle into wasteland of twisted debris

FROM TOM RHODES
IN BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

THE Florida Panhandle was like a wasteland. Twisted trees locked with bare power cables, cars lay abandoned, roofs and debris littered roads throughout Florida and Alabama yesterday after Hurricane Opal brought devastation to hundreds of thousands in America and left at least three dead in her wake.

In coastal areas, which bore the brunt of Opal's initial

144mph winds, cars floated down streets, boats were hurled onto each other and roofs ripped from their buildings. More than one million were without electricity, cities were facing a critical water shortage and telephone lines were crippled throughout northern Florida.

By yesterday morning, curfews had been imposed in several areas of the Gulf of Mexico region as more than 3,500 police and scores of disaster and relief workers

took charge of a situation declared a national emergency by President Clinton.

For many of the more than 100,000 who had been evacuated from their homes along the Florida coastline, the news that the Federal Emergency Management Agency was in charge offered little comfort. Damage to the beach areas between Mary Esther and Panama City was estimated at "many, many millions".

Allen Brumfield, his mother and two nephews had left

their mobile home in Panama City, the previous morning. By the time they reached Dothan, Alabama, after a 12-hour drive along clogged roads, all hotels were full. The family finally found beds at a Red Cross shelter. "Our home won't be there when we get back. It's going to be rough for us," said the factory worker. "They probably won't even let us go back for a week because so much needs clearing up down there."

Panama City was hit partic-

ularly hard when waves 12 ft higher than usual broke the end of its new fishing pier. Normally bustling with tourists, the sheltered seaside resort resembled a ghost town. Those who did not leave early on Wednesday were forced to take whatever refuge that was available. Justice John Stroud and his family hid in a cupboard during the worst of the hurricane. "We put mattresses over our heads and waited for it to go away."

Opal struck east of Pensacola, cutting a swath across a 150-mile stretch of coast before careering northwards into Alabama, western Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina, its advance marked by tornadoes, electrical storms and torrential rains.

A 76-year-old woman was battered to death by a twister that ripped her trailer in Okaloosa County. Two men were killed by falling trees in Georgia and South Carolina. At least 200 homes were smashed in Bay County, Florida, whose famous white beaches were left bedraggled.

Although the winds subsided to 70mph by 2am yesterday, driving through the eye of the storm was an eerie experience. A green fringe lit the road as the few cars and lorries about swerved past fallen trees, fences and twisted metal. By morning, Opal had been downgraded to a tropical storm and, travelling at 20mph, was expected to be over the Great Lakes by today. The hurricane, which left

ten dead in Mexico, had grown so fast in the Gulf that forecasters predicted it would be the worst to strike the United States since Camille killed 256 in 1969. Opal is the fifteenth named storm this year and the ninth to reach hurricane status. Only once since 1950, in the year of Camille, have the names reached letter O. The Florida Panhandle is peculiarly unfortunate, having experienced the fury of Hurricane Erin earlier this year.

Bickering defence team had doubts about guilt and sought to implicate friend

Lawyer reveals plea bargaining in Simpson case

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ONE of O.J. Simpson's lawyers discussed a deal involving a guilty plea by Mr Simpson and a five-year jail sentence for one of his closest friends, according to F. Lee Bailey, himself a top Simpson defence attorney.

Pointing to grave doubts over Mr Simpson's innocence even in his inner circle, Mr Bailey alleged that Robert Shapiro negotiated with prosecutors for a plea bargain that would have required the American football star to plead guilty to manslaughter in the deaths of Nicole Brown, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend.

The deal would also have meant a prison term for Robert Kardashian, Mr Simpson's close friend and business partner, Mr Bailey said.

It was to Mr Kardashian that Mr Simpson entrusted a folding garment bag on his return from Chicago the day after the double murders. The bag's contents were never revealed, and Mr Kardashian later refused to testify in the trial on the grounds of attorney-client privilege.

"I sat there while [Mr Shapiro] tried to put together a manslaughter plea, which would have gotten Kardashian a five-year sentence for

something he never did," Mr Bailey told a Boston television station.

Throwing new light on a poisonous rift that nearly tore the defence team apart soon after the start of the trial in January, Mr Bailey went on: "Shapiro was paying no attention to the case, didn't understand it and was negotiating to try to get a plea of guilty. That was when we got him out." Mr Simpson was aware of the negotiations, Mr Bailey said, but "didn't want anyone to leave his team" and demanded that Mr Shapiro stay on.

A plea bargain specialist well-known in Hollywood, Mr Shapiro joined the case in June last year. Credited with assembling the all-star "dream team", Mr Shapiro was ousted as leader after his furious but unexplained row with Mr Bailey, his former friend.

The *National Enquirer*, a supermarket tabloid, reported before the trial that plea-bargain negotiations had been in progress but had stalled when prosecutors refused to consider a lighter sentence for Mr Simpson in return for pleading guilty to lesser charges. Mr Simpson was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

The report was denied by Johnnie Cochran, who replaced Mr Shapiro as lead defence attorney and on Wednesday professed ignorance of any moves towards a plea bargain. "There have never been any such negotiations that I'm aware of," Mr Cochran said.

Asked if he thought Mr Simpson had been made to appear guilty by Mr Bailey's Boston interview, Mr Cochran said he was sure this had not been his colleague's intention since Mr Bailey had "always maintained the innocence of the client".

Even so, the claims by the legendary Boston lawyer have reopened the mystery of the designer garment bag, which appeared full when Mr Kardashian was videotaped carrying it away from the Simpson home. Prosecutors have maintained that it contained valuable evidence. When he handed it over to police months later, saying he had never looked inside it, it was empty.

The rift in the defence team has opened into a chasm since Tuesday's not-guilty verdict. Mr Shapiro, who is Jewish, said he was "deeply offended" by Mr Cochran's comparison of Detective Mark Fuhrman to Hitler in his closing argument, and has told ABC News he will never talk to Mr Bailey again. The feeling appears to be mutual. Mr Bailey recently called him a "sick little puppy" who was saved from embarrassment by Mr Cochran taking over the defence.

Another of Mr Simpson's ideas that was going nowhere, at least as far as the Los Angeles police were concerned, was his stated "primary goal in life" to do whatever it takes to find the killer or killers. "The case is closed," a police spokesman said. "This is not an unsolved crime." Demonstrators near Mr Simpson's house yesterday chanted: "O.J., we know you did it, you will never be free."



Johnnie Cochran during the television interview with Larry King which produced a call from O.J. Simpson

Angry OJ calls TV phone-in

FROM IAN BRODIE IN LOS ANGELES

AN ANGRY O.J. Simpson, who refused to testify during his trial, used Larry King's call-in show to acknowledge that he was the "shadowy figure" seen by a limousine driver outside his home on the night his ex-wife and her friend were stabbed to death.

Speaking publicly about the case for the first time since a jury acquitted him of murder, Mr Simpson also attacked the prosecution and television analysts for distorting the testimony. "My basic anger is these misconceptions," he said, when asked if he was angry or relieved after winning his freedom.

Mr Simpson made his impulse call to the CNN programme while Johnnie Cochran, his chief defence lawyer, was a guest in the studio. But after a few minutes he dodged Mr King's questioning, saying "I gotta go, I really gotta go".

He was angry or relieved after winning his freedom.

Mr Simpson made his impulse call to the CNN programme while Johnnie Cochran, his chief defence lawyer, was a guest in the studio. But after a few minutes he dodged Mr King's questioning, saying "I gotta go, I really gotta go".

Thinking, no doubt, of the pecuniary damage he could be inflicting on his plan for a pay-per-view television special. "Pretty soon, I'll have enough to say," he said.

During the brief interview, Mr Simpson disclosed that he had a "great" reunion with his children by his murdered wife — Sydney, 9, and Justin, 7 — whom he had not seen since his arrest.

Seeking to clear up one of many mysteries left unanswered by the trial, Mr Simpson said on the night of the murders he had walked about five yards from his front door to deposit his bags in readiness for being picked up by Allan Park, who testified that he saw the figure hurrying into the mansion. Mr Simpson did not explain why he failed to respond to Mr Park's repeated rings on the buzzer at the gate when he arrived to take Mr Simpson to the airport for a midnight flight to Chicago. The prosecution claimed that Mr Simpson did not answer because he had

the ground of taste. There was also uncertainty whether Mr Simpson would have enough to say that would persuade millions of Americans to part with between \$30 to \$50 to tune in. "Will he say anything you can't predict?" asked an executive who has negotiated other pay-per-view deals.

In Los Angeles, political fallout from the acquittal is considerable. Newspapers are calling for a big shake-up in the way crimes are investigated. They are demanding an end to years of bungled work in the underfunded police laboratory and the coroner's department where flaws were wittingly exposed by Mr Simpson's lawyers.

The city's black leaders are complaining that the racist slurs of Mark Fuhrman, the investigating detective, were not an isolated case and that institutionalised racism needs to be rooted out of the police force, a proposal easier made than carried out.

Seoul 'was building A-bomb'

Seoul: South Korea was on the verge of producing nuclear weapons with French technology when President Park was assassinated in 1979, an opposition Democratic Party MP said here yesterday.

The weapons programme, which was to have been completed in 1981, was scrapped by a military junta which seized power in a coup after Park's death. In an attempt to win favour from the Democratic administration in Washington, Kang Chang-Sung said during a National Assembly inspection of the Agency of Defence Development (ADD).

"In September, 1978, President Park told me that ADD was developing nuclear weapons and 95 per cent of the programme was completed," Mr Kang, the former military intelligence commander, said. A Defence Ministry spokesman declined to comment. (AFP)

Peking's army gets new chief

Peking: General Fu Quanyou, 65, has been appointed Chief of General Staff for China's armed forces, replacing General Zhang Wannian, according to Xinhua news agency. General Zhang, 67, was promoted to be Vice-Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission last week. Observers said General Fu's promotion, expected in the West, partly reflected an absence of binding links with any factions within the armed forces or Communist Party. (AFP)

23 face funding charges in Spain

Madrid: The public prosecutor investigating the illegal financing of the ruling Socialist Party has asked the Supreme Court to charge 23 people, including a senator, two bankers and a number of industrialists (Edward Owen writes). Antonio Salinas, the prosecutor, is seeking prison sentences and fines totalling £7.5 million. It is claimed that the Socialists illegally received donations of £5.4 million.

Amnesty official barred by China

Peking: Nicholas Howden, a senior Amnesty International official, was refused entry at Peking airport when he arrived to attend an anti-corruption conference (James Pringle writes). The gathering has already embarrassed China: the former local government official who was to have delivered the keynote address committed suicide after coming under investigation for economic crimes.

Kenya threat to Rwanda inquiry

Nairobi: President Moi has stunned the international tribunal investigating Rwanda's genocide by saying he will arrest any of its members who travel to Kenya in pursuit of Rwandans alleged to have planned or implemented the massacres. Human rights groups say some of the main suspects are living in Kenya. (Reuters)

Maradona plea to stay out of jail

Buenos Aires: Diego Maradona, who made his soccer comeback last weekend after a 15-month ban for drugs use, has asked the Supreme Court to be allowed to do community service to escape a four-year prison sentence for shooting at journalists outside his home with an air rifle. (AFP)

Trunk route

Kuala Lumpur: Two captured rampaging Malaysian elephants are to be returned to the wild tamed with battery-powered collars for their movements to be tracked by radio and satellite. (AFP)



Bailey: called Shapiro a "sick little puppy"



Shapiro: vowed not to talk to Bailey again

Pope urges the UN to develop moral role

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Pope urged the United Nations yesterday to remain true to its ideals as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and be the "moral centre" of a "family of nations".

Making the key speech of his visit to America, the Pope said the world organisation should take the "risk of peace".

The United Nations organisation needs to rise more and more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral centre where all the nations of the

world feel at home and develop a shared awareness of being," he said.

Lauding the "brave men and women" of Eastern Europe for the non-violent revolutions of 1989, the Polish pontiff issued a stirring defence of patriotism.

The Pope was expected to enter the abortion debate in America at a Mass in a New York stadium last night with a defence of the "right to life" of unborn children. He is due to leave the country on Sunday.

Rising black jail population fuels race debate

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE racial debate sparked by the O.J. Simpson verdict was fuelled yesterday by a report showing one-third of American black men in their twenties are in jail, on probation or on parole. Five years ago the figure was a quarter.

The report, based on Justice Department statistics, blamed the startling increase not on rising crime rates but on tougher law enforcement policies — particularly the "war on drugs" — that have disproportionately affected blacks.

It helps to explain why black and white Americans dis-

agreed so starkly about Mr Simpson's acquittal. Whites were convinced he was guilty and considered incredible his lawyers' contention that he was framed by Los Angeles police. Blacks, including the nine on the jury, were far readier to accept that argument because most believe the criminal justice system is biased against them.

Blacks constitute 12 per cent of the US population, but the report showed 32,440 or 32.2 per cent of young black men were now under the supervision of the criminal justice

system at a cost of \$6 billion (£3.8 billion) a year. The comparable figure for Hispanics was 12.3 per cent and for whites, 6.7 per cent.

The report suggested the "war on drugs" since the 1980s had led to a disproportionate number of black arrests because it focused on inner cities, which have predominantly black populations. Blacks, in fact, represent 13 per cent of US drug users, but account for 39 per cent of arrests for drug offences, 55 per cent of convictions and 74 per cent of those jailed.

The report prompted urgent calls for action from black leaders. "If this were basically white youth in this dilemma we would assume something was wrong with the system, not something wrong with the children," said Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist.

Lee Brown, the White House drug "czar" who is also black, said the report showed "you can't arrest your way out of the drug problem, you can't incarcerate your way out of the problem and you can't execute your way out of the problem. Until we stop the

demand for drugs this crisis in America will remain."

Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam group leader, is organising a "Million Man March" in Washington on Monday week to promote pride, personal responsibility and moral fortitude among black men. A Washington Post poll yesterday showed half America's blacks knew of the event, with 84 per cent of those supporting it.

The capital's biggest demonstration yet was when 600,000 protested in November 1969 against the Vietnam war.

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Mrs Harriman sues lawyers over her dwindling millions

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the American Ambassador to Paris and Winston Churchill's daughter-in-law, should re-read Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*. The case of Jarndyce versus Jarndyce in that novel lasted such an eternity that by the time it was settled the disputed inheritance had been entirely consumed by lawyers' fees.

Much the same could happen to what remains of the \$100 million (£63 million) estate left by Mrs Harriman's late husband, Averell, after his death in 1986. Last January Mrs Harriman's children and grandchildren filed a lawsuit accusing her of squandering as much as \$41 million of that inheritance through

disastrous investments. Yesterday it was revealed that Mrs Harriman is suing her own lawyers for failing to prevent the estate's ruinous mismanagement.

The British-born socialite has taken on Lloyd Cutler, the former White House counsel, to represent her. The lawyers she is suing include Clark Clifford, legal adviser to many Democratic presidents, and Paul Warnke, a valued member of the Johnson and Carter Administrations.

Even before Mrs Harriman launched this latest lawsuit she was running low on funds. Earlier this year she and her late husband's heirs were close to agreeing on a \$20 million settlement. It fell

apart when Mr Clifford refused to contribute \$3 million, but not before she had sold paintings by Picasso, Renoir and Matisse for \$17 million at Christie's and one of her two Georgetown homes for just under \$1 million.

Mrs Harriman's heirs allege that Mrs Harriman and her advisers made a series of ruinous investments and that she lent herself millions of dollars from trust funds supposed to benefit others. Her lawsuit alleges that the heirs and various trust funds would never have suffered the losses they did if Mr Clifford and Mr Warnke had shown "care, skill and diligence". The two lawyers have denied any wrongdoing.

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Moscow accuses Chechen rebels of military build-up

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN ROSHNI-CHU, CHECHENIA, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ABOUT 6,000 Chechen separatists are ready for battle equipped with tanks and armoured vehicles after regrouping while peace talks took place with Moscow, Pavel Grachev, Russia's Defence Minister, said yesterday. He told the Interfax news agency that forces loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, had "used the negotiations process to enlarge their forces with the aim of taking up military action again". He said the rebels had 12 tanks and ten armoured personnel carriers.

General Grachev is opposed to the continuing negotiations between Russia and a team from the Muslim Caucasus republic. He wants the rebels to be disbanded first.

The two sides signed a demilitarisation accord on July 30, providing for the rebels to disarm in return for the withdrawal of most of the Russian troops sent to crush the separatist government in December. But the pact never came into effect.

In Grozny, the Chechen capital, the Russians are struggling to patch together a political settlement that excludes the separatists. But it is a sign of their desperation that Russian Khasbulatov, former Speaker of the Russian parlia-

ment and once President Yeltsin's *bête noire*, is being touted as a peacemaker by Moscow.

The conflict with Moscow has left between 15,000 and 50,000 dead. But much of the south has now fallen back into the hands of the rebels and General Dudayev's government is still alive and doing business.

The fact becomes obvious in the country's low foothills, only an hour's drive from Grozny and within sight of the Russian guns. The Dudayev zone of influence begins at the village of Roshni-Chu, where



Grachev wants rebels to surrender their arms

the wooded hills of Chechenia start a slow climb to the ridge of the Caucasus.

It is an open secret that Roshni-Chu is a rebel base, visited frequently by the general and his government. The Russians, who have arrest warrants out for General Dudayev and his team, have posted soldiers just outside the village. But, possibly fearing a backlash from the population, they go no further.

One of the leaders is the Vice-President of the old Chechen government, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev. Temporarily based in Roshni-Chu, he said that since the war began he had crossed the hills on foot six times.

"We have defended our idea, our freedom," said Mr Yandarbiyev, a poet with a bushy black beard, in his farmhouse office. "That does not mean our territory is free today. No, a lot of our territory is occupied by Russian forces, but the people are still fighting."

Much of the rebel government structure is working. Two weeks ago in Roshni-Chu the general held a conference of the National Congress of the Chechen People, the movement that brought him to power in 1991. The rebels still have a television station, based in a wood, that broadcasts to the population. People set their watches an hour behind Moscow, as they did when General Dudayev was in power.

The Russians conceded they had to do business with the general when they signed the July military agreement. Mr Yandarbiyev made it clear he thought it was only of tactical value.

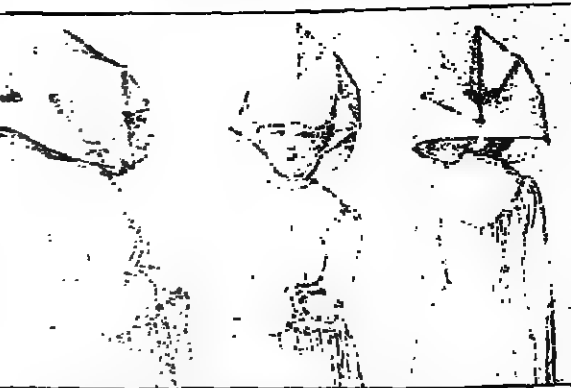
"We should mainly regard it as a pause in the process of working out the relationship between two states, Russia and Chechenia," he said. He called the Russian leaders "international terrorists" and said their future should be decided by a war crimes tribunal.

He also ruled out any co-operation with the Chechen politicians running a Moscow-installed government in Grozny. "There are some people who have not only stepped their hands in blood, but who have gorged their gullets with blood," he said.

The problem for the rebels appears to be that their political influence is not supported by enough military muscle. Russian Gelayev, a Chechen commander, said he was too low on weapons and ammunition to start fighting again. Of the thousands of Chechens who fought against the Russians in December and January, probably only a few hundred are still full-time warriors.



Portrait of a Woman, by Holbein, which went on display in Moscow yesterday



Woman's Suit, by Dürer, another of 307 drawings

Russians unveil seized works of art after 50 years

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has put on show a new batch of masterpieces half a century after they were seized by Soviet troops in occupied Germany.

Two of the most stunning drawings in the exhibition at Moscow's Pushkin Museum are *Portrait of a Woman* by Hans Holbein the Younger and *Woman's Suit* by Albrecht Dürer. The show, entitled "Five Centuries of European Drawing", features works by Rembrandt, Titian and Tintoretto. They form part of the prewar Dutch collection of Franz Koenigs, which for decades was feared destroyed in the war.

"For years we were reproached for not showing the 'trophy' art treasures," Irina Antonova, the museum's director, said. "Now at last we are showing them. These art works are not spread out

among different collections and have not been sold."

As with other "trophy" war exhibits put on display earlier this year at the Pushkin Museum and the Hermitage in St Petersburg, the latest exhibition has sparked a fresh custody battle.

The Netherlands claims that the collection was bought under duress by the Germans during Nazi occupation of the country. The drawings were destined to become part of Hitler's personal collection, but were seized by a Soviet Army trophy unit in the ruins of Dresden on May 8, 1945.

Although The Netherlands and Germany have made claims to the collection, the issue is unlikely to be resolved before the Russian parliament votes a new law on the fate of thousands of pieces of trophy art.

Duma studies way to bar mafia bosses

BY RICHARD BEESTON

RUSSIAN deputies are considering removing their immunity from prosecution in a desperate attempt to avoid parliament becoming a haven for mafia bosses.

Members of the Duma, parliament's lower house, are drawing up legislation that would strip away one of their most cherished privileges, after it emerged that scores of criminals were planning to run for office in an attempt to avoid being prosecuted.

The move to lift their immunity before the December 17 polling date is being spearheaded by Stanislav Govorukhin, the Democratic Party leader. His fears were sparked after Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, announced this week that 85 candidates seeking election were suspected criminals, either facing charges or under investigation.

According to press reports, in one party alone four leading figures on the electoral list are either convicted criminals or being prosecuted for serious crimes. "There is a danger that the next Duma may resemble a congress of thieves," Mr Govorukhin said. He added

that the real figure for candidates with criminal links was probably far higher.

Grigori Yavlinsky, the leader of the liberal Yabloko faction in parliament, said the candidates were not interested in politics, but wanted "a shelter" from the law.

The present parliament already has a chequered history. Two members were victims of gangland shootings, which suggested that they had links with the mafia. A third Duma member, accused of defrauding thousands of investors through a pyramid scheme, has admitted that he only campaigned for his seat to avoid going to prison.

Sergei Mavrodi, the head of the MMM investment company, said yesterday he was determined to get re-elected because "otherwise they would put me in jail". Under Russian law, only convicted criminals serving their sentences are barred from running for office.

However, experts said they were doubtful that parliamentarians, jealous of their powers, had the will to change the law.

Denard surrender brings Comoros coup to an end

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

COLONEL Robert Denard surrendered to French troops in the Comoros Islands yesterday, bringing to an end his short-lived coup and perhaps his colourful career as a mercenary.

On Wednesday, a week after Colonel Denard and his men seized power in the former French colony and ousted President Djohar, France sent in 600 troops in a short and efficient dawn raid.

For more than 24 hours a group of the rebels refused to lay down their arms. But yesterday morning Colonel Denard said he had agreed to capitulate in exchange for a commitment from the military authorities that his men would not be harmed. Like most other events in the life of Colonel Denard, 66, his surrender was a strange mixture of bravado, martial rhetoric and farce. "Today it's raining, and today the Comoreans are crying," he declared.

At first Colonel Denard insisted he did not plan to "abandon his comrades-in-

arms... We can still fight and we can die". But yesterday morning after meeting French officers he agreed to leave the military compound peacefully.

President Djohar, who had been held captive by the mercenaries since the coup, was also released and flown to the French island of Réunion for a medical check-up.

Colonel Denard now faces what may be the last act in a vivid, self-created drama spanning 30 years, back in France. A warrant for his arrest has been issued in connection with the assassination of President Abdallah of the Comoros in 1989, and a five-year suspended sentence awaits him in France for his role in an abortive 1977 coup attempt in Dahomey, now Benin.

The French Government has vowed to bring him to justice one and for all, but his trial may prove acutely embarrassing to the authorities who have publicly admitted backing many of his exploits.

UN will shrink Bosnia force by 9,000

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AS President Clinton announced a ceasefire in Bosnia yesterday, the United Nations simultaneously announced plans to cut the 30,500-strong UN Protection Force in Bosnia by more than 9,000 men.

Apart from Britain, the cuts will affect troops from Canada, The Netherlands, Malaysia, Sweden, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

André Ouellet, Canada's Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the Canadian battalion of 850 soldiers based at Visoko in central Bosnia, would not be replaced at the end of its current six-month tour of duty in November. He told the Canadian parliament: "The situation in Bosnia has changed a great deal over the

past few weeks. The United Nations has concluded it will not be needing the same number of forces on the ground."

In Williamsburg, Virginia, the Nato defence ministers agreed that Russia should play a part in the peace implementation force for Bosnia, although Moscow has refused to operate under Nato command. William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said there were other tasks the Russians could perform without being under Nato command.

American and Russian defence ministers are to meet in Geneva on Sunday to discuss the plans for a 60,000-man multinational force to replace

the UN peacekeepers in Bosnia. One controversial issue discussed at yesterday's meeting was an American plan to train the Bosnian government forces so that they would be able to stand up to the Serbs if war broke out again.

US officials said only by enabling the Muslims to resist Serb aggression could a settlement be guaranteed to last after the withdrawal of the Nato-led peace force. Washington has said the force, likely to include 25,000 American servicemen, cannot stay longer than one year.

Despite hopes of an end to the fighting, UN officials reported yesterday that 100 Croatian army troops had gone back into Bosnia. There were

fears they might be the vanguard of a larger force. Croatian regular troops had withdrawn after participating in the offensive against the Serbs in western Bosnia.

The ceasefire was agreed during a round of shuttle diplomacy in the Balkans by the American peace envoy, Richard Holbrooke. Officials said the ceasefire would last for 60 days or until a peace agreement is reached. The accord calls for an end to all offensive operations, sniper fire and the laying of mines. Full gas and electrical services are to be restored to Sarajevo, and UN peacekeepers are to open roads between major cities — apparently including the besieged Muslim enclave

of Gorazde. The accord does not, however, satisfy the Bosnian Government's earlier demand for the demilitarisation of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka.

Once the guns are silent, diplomats will resume their search for a settlement that establishes a single Bosnian parliament and presidency but divides the country 49-51 per cent between the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim/Croat Federation.

Shot dead: A British army patrol shot dead a Bosnian army soldier in Donji Vakuf in western Bosnia when the Muslim soldier pointed a gun at the head of a British serviceman on patrol in the town.

Cousteau battles son over Fiji beach resort's name

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, left, with his son, Jean-Michel

JACQUES COUSTEAU, the French oceanographer, is locked in a legal battle with his only surviving son over the use of their family name to promote a beach resort in Fiji.

Jean-Michel Cousteau has incurred his 85-year-old father's wrath by naming his environmentally-aware holiday spot on the idyllic South Seas island the "Cousteau Resort". The elder Cousteau has filed a suit alleging that by doing so his son, an environmentalist and film producer, has brought the Cousteau name into disrepute. M Cousteau Sr has demanded that the Cousteau name be removed from the resort's promotional literature unless the name "Jean-Michel" also appears on the logo.

In most respects the beach resort is precisely the sort of place the great marine scientist and ecological campaigner might have dreamed up

himself, which may partly explain his resentment. Opened on April 22, the Cousteau Resort is a marine sanctuary in which jet skis, motor boats and even fishing are banned in the interests of preserving the environment.

Jacques Cousteau's opposition to the project is believed to stem from a feud with his son which erupted in 1991 when the younger Cousteau resigned from his post at the Cousteau Society and set up a film company.

A year later Jacques Cousteau told *Nouvel Economiste*: "My son is charming, but he is not capable — just because a kid is born out of your sperm does not mean he has the necessary qualities to replace you." Jean-Michel Cousteau, 57, has described his father's legal action as "sad and shocking", but says he plans to fight the suit when it comes to court in Fiji later this year.

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The new head of the Tory think-tank did not go to school until she was 12, but watch out Tony Blair

'I am not a saintly Catholic but God loves sinners — so I think it's worth a try'

When Tessa Keswick goes to Blackpool, she will have been one week in her new job as director of the Centre for Policy Studies, the Tory think-tank. So she has a rough act to follow. I refer not to her predecessor, Gerald Fris, of whom nobody heard much, but to the fact that Tony Blair had, at Brighton, so dramatically swept the ground from under Tory thinkers' feet.

"It was obvious Tony Blair was going to do this," Mrs Keswick says. Six months ago, she had warned her then boss, Kenneth Clarke, about it. "I kept saying to Ken, it's just a matter of time before he takes over the law-and-order issue."

When Mrs Keswick was appointed to the Centre by Lord Griffiths of Forest, the consensus was that a non-graduate was a surprising choice for a cerebral think-tank founded by Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph. Lord Griffiths hypes her ability and industry. But she can bring more than that. Any organisation can depend on a smart woman, who has visibility and curiosity value, to raise its profile. Even better, a woman with energy, wealth and charm is free to voice her indignation and shake up a fading regime. Like George Warden and his fellow MPs deserting the sinking ship, she can be a thorn in Tory flesh while declaring: "I have never

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



had any doubts about being a Conservative."

Her new office is a tall, noisy house in Horseferry Road, Westminster, where Mrs Keswick's voice, gentle and low, is drowned by traffic, police sirens and banging doors.

The paper she has prepared for me squarely faces the Centre's challenge after 16 years in power, many Tory arguments have passed into mainstream currency. "Tory ideas of the 1980s have influenced centre-right parties the world over — a fact that has not escaped the attention of the vigilant Mr Blair. ... Some policies have been implemented badly, so they suffer from a 'You have had your chance' charge," she writes.

So what can the think-tank now suggest the Tories do to "make the quality of people's lives better more quickly"? "We can remind the Government that there are sensible

Conservative policies to be picked up if they grasp the nettle," she says.

She grew up one of the five children of brave Lord Lovat, at idyllic Beaufort Castle in the Highlands, with horses and country pursuits, wearing the kilt. She did not go to school until she was 12: a culture shock 600 miles away at the Sacred Heart convent at Woldingham, Surrey. There she swanned through French O level at 13. A level at 15 (her governess had been French) and insisted, a spirited girl, on leaving school. "All I wanted — which I hate to say because Mother Shantley, who is now 98, was splendid — was to get out into the world."

She went to Madrid, Paris, New York. Then married Lord Reay, chief of the Clan Mackay, and dived into a wife. (She had not heard Congreve's expression.)

The marriage was not happy, and she divorced after years of indecision. "I'm not a saintly Catholic but God loves sinners, and although the Catholic Church is rigorous and difficult to live by, I think it's worth a try. What I minded most about divorcing is that it's so traumatic for the children, which is why I avoided it for as long as possible." (The eldest was 15, the youngest eight.)

She sent them to a Roman Catholic primary school until Mr Mudge, the headmaster, advised her to send the eldest to Westminster. "I really wanted them to go to Holland Park

Comprehensive, but my friends did that with disastrous results. By the time I became a councillor in the 1970s there was £300,000 damage to the windows in a year." She stood for the Tory council in Kensington and Chelsea, as a single parent. Life seemed to be one strike after another, so she decided that, instead of boring her friends rigid by complaining, she would lick envelopes to shut herself up. "I recommend this to all ladies: start in an

unambitious way at the grass roots, and find out what you can do. Of course that doesn't apply today: young women now have the most terrifying confidence."

Later she stood as Tory candidate in Inverness, and tried for other hopeless seats. In 1985, she married Henry Matheson, a friend since childhood, chairman of Jardine Matheson. "Will you point out that my husband is not the 28th richest man in the country? He is one of an enormous family of about 150, who have a shareholding. She is, I am told, a very fine sight on her horse, out on the downs in Wiltshire at weekends, where the Keswicks have a house."

In 1989, she took the job of special policy adviser to Kenneth Clarke, then Health Secretary, who chose her from six other candidates: people marvelled at the mismatch of lifestyles, his beer-and-Hush-Puppies and hers chic and patrician, but they hit it off at once. She started the day the Tory health reforms were announced which was "like the Battle of the Somme". She had never, apart from an appendectomy in Scotland, been an NHS patient herself (she had her babies at Guy's, the third birth watched by students as a demonstration of natural

the league. But there's a new head, who says she cannot deliver the new reforms without streaming classes, so she can deal with the unruly ones. They can have a good school again."

Mrs Keswick also has strong views on care in the community — "doctors have to be held personally responsible for the mentally ill they release, to be sued if necessary" — on the homeless, and on young tearaways who persecute communities. (Keswick and Blair should watch Roger Graef's programme on policing, on Channel 4 on Sunday, with its pertinent answers to this vital question.) "Tony Blair has sensibly said they're going to do something about all of these. There are whole policy areas which the Conservatives have failed to grip, and must."

"I remember saying to a Family Division judge, years

ago, why do you award maintenance which is never going to be paid? and he said, 'that's nothing to do with us'. And now young girls in boiler boots say to hell with the father, they know he's not going to provide."

Six months ago Mrs Keswick decided to leave Kenneth Clarke's office. She was exhausted: she had lost, within a year, two of her brothers (Andrew and Simon Fraser) and her father. She went skiing and tried to reread Proust — "unbearably precious and dated" — but realised how bad she was at not being busy. "The more I do, the more Henry likes it." She went off to America — where, having no idea that the Centre job was in the offing, she visited New Right think-tanks, the Gingrichites, and Bob Dole's campaign team — and to Hong Kong.

She comes home to find her family's ancestral castle sold to Ann Gloag, the enterprising

businesswoman's daughter who made her millions with her Stagecoach company.

"She's an excellent lady who will look after it brilliantly," says Mrs Keswick, "and that's what matters: she is looking after everyone there. And she is a Scot, and a Fraser. There is a beginning and an end to all things. So, well done her." Mrs Keswick owned none of it, anyway; primogeniture being what it is.

She promises that the Centre will shower us with hard-hitting pamphlets, examining the Government's record, issuing challenging reminders to be more Conservative. So you will say that certain policies have been failures? "Well, some have been less successful than others," she says. "But whatever Tony Blair says, a lot has been done." I realise, after two hours, that Tony Blair's name has been invoked half a dozen times; the name of John Major has not been mentioned at all.



Tessa Keswick, the surprise new director of the Centre for Policy Studies: "I have never had any doubts about being a Conservative"

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'I avoided the trauma of divorce for as long as I could'

childbirth) but a special adviser has to learn fast. "And Ken generated an enormous amount of activity wherever he went." Then on to Education, the Home Office and the Treasury.

Now she is free to fulminate about education. "Why, after 16 years, have we not got a reliable education system? It's the thing parents mind about more than anything else. The reforms are good, but have to go faster. What's the point of talking about tax cuts when we could deliver a free first-rate service? We have to be more radical. One in four children can't read or write — but children will learn if they are taught."

Tony Blair, by choosing a grant-maintained school for his son, has demonstrated that ideologies are out of the window, that people want good schools, that ideology is secondary to education, and it is acceptable to say this.

"HMI have been saying for 25 years that mixed-ability teaching disadvantages children. I went to a sink school the other day in Brent. Ten years ago it sent children to university; now it's at the bottom of

JUDGMENT ON AMERICA

The OJ Simpson trial has thrown America's brittle race relations into turmoil. How can the US stop its ethnic melting pot boiling over? A special report, in News Review



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Patricia Cornwell's books are not for the squeamish, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

Making millions out of the morgue

Once you have read a Patricia Cornwell novel, you will never sleep with your window open, for fear of what might come and find you in the night. You will buy the best burglar alarm you can afford, insert a spyhole in your front door and realise, if Cornwell has her way, that you can't walk through the world and not see what's going on around you.

Cornwell's world is irredeemably bleak. It is terrorised by serial killers, scattered with mutilated bodies and patrolled by a lonely woman pathologist, Dr Kay Scarpetta. Her novels are bereft of comfort, packed with random violence and immensely popular. Cornwell titles jam the bestseller lists in Britain and America. This summer beaches were packed with people hypnotised by unflinching descriptions of autopsies and gruesome accounts of sex crimes.

In consequence, Cornwell, the former wife of a Presbyterian minister, is very rich. She has homes in Virginia, Los Angeles and Mayfair, a staff of 12, including a bodyguard; she drives a charcoal Mercedes sports car and has a personal shopper at Bergdorf Goodman; in New York, to select her Armani suits.

Yet there is nothing starry about Cornwell, a small, blonde woman with intense blue eyes, a Deep-South accent and an endearing frankness. She likes being rich and famous, but what she likes more is being able to lose herself in the world of Scarpetta.

"Scarpetta is remarkable, you can't take your eyes off her," says Cornwell, sipping iced tea in a London hotel. "She's intelligent, she's attractive. She is an honourable, hard-working, humane person who battles with the darkest of evil and emerges as a life force."

This paragon is also remarkably similar to her creator. Both were born in Miami, love to cook complicated Italian meals and are ex-

smokers. "There are differences," says Cornwell. "I'm not really Catholic and I'm not really Italian." What does she mean not really? "Well, I'm really German and I'm Protestant. Scarpetta's a doctor and a lawyer, a supremely disciplined and educated person and I'm an artist."

But all this, Cornwell admits, is window dressing. "Her spirit is mine; we are both fighters, driven professionals who find relationships difficult. Scarpetta is divorced and childless and so am I." She barks with laughter. "The only difference is that I'm not having an exciting affair like she is."

Scarpetta's every move is meticulously researched. In the next novel, *Cause of Death*, she will investigate an underwater crime scene, so Cornwell spent the summer scuba diving. "It wasn't something that came easily to me; the first time I got out of the pool I threw up." Such diligence pays dividends. Cornwell's fans love her technical descriptions of a murder investigation. "They are enchanted that you can pick up a cartridge and know what type of gun it came from. Anyone could do that with the right knowledge, you don't have to be Arnold Schwarzenegger, and people like to think that they are not reading make-believe."

Cornwell, 39, grew up in a small town in North Carolina and her parents divorced when she was seven. She married the Rev Charles Cornwell, her college English professor, who was 17 years her senior. "He was probably just the father who was never around when I was growing up."

For a while Cornwell was a dutiful housewife but, haunted by memories of a spell as a crime reporter for the *Charlotte Observer*, she became a part-time police officer and did menial jobs at the Virginia medical officer's office. "I spent six years in the morgue and that's a long time. At times I would go hollow inside, seeing children on the slab, grieving mothers and fathers,

and when I got home I would be so fatigued. All the energy in my psyche was going toward pushing away the horror of this."

"Nobody was happy with me spending all day there, least of all my ex-husband, but I knew it was where I needed to be." She stares out of the window. In 1989, Mr Cornwell walked out, leaving his wife with three unpublished crime novels and a drawer full of rejection letters. "In those days Scarpetta

was a peripheral character, then she said 'Will you let me be in charge?' and I said 'Go ahead'."

The first Scarpetta book, *Postmortem*, was published in 1990, and won four awards. Five more have appeared since then: the latest, *From Potter's Field*, will be made into a film next year. "Hollywood has wanted every one of my novels, but I would only let them if I could ensure they were not trivialised."

There is certainly nothing glossy about Cornwell's novels, nothing titillating in her descriptions of pregnant women shot in the head and young boys with chunks of skin bitten out. Nor is there any sympathy for the killer *à la* *Silence of the Lambs*. "After you have read my books, there is no way violence will be an abstraction to you, unless you are a twisted individual. The entertainment industry has had a terrible effect on society, by celebrating what it should condemn. Over my dead body will Gault [the psychopath character] be the hero of any movie. Scarpetta would probably kill me."

Her language is revealing. Cornwell is a woman teetering on paranoia, whose aim is to make her readers "more safety conscious. I watch *Lassie* and it scares me. I hear loud noises and I just jump right out of my skin. If I allowed my thoughts to wander I'd scare myself to death."

Ironically, fame has made Cornwell more vulnerable than ever to "sickos and weirdos". She lives surrounded by high-tech security equipment and owns several guns.

"There was never any crime where I grew up, nobody locked their doors, but I always had a Gothic imagination. My favourite holiday was Halloween. If there was a dead log floating in the canal, to me it would become an alligator. Anyone else would have imagined it was something positive. Such as what? 'I can't think of anything.'"

Her friend Ruth Graham (the evangelist Billy Graham's wife) said she didn't find Cornwell's novels scary because death did not frighten her. "But there's a lot of things that can happen to you before you die," says Cornwell. "My biggest fear is what might happen before that."

The telephone rings — and we both jump as we would at the sound of gunshot.



Bleak house: Patricia Cornwell's fictional world is terrorised by serial killers and scattered with bodies

Auntie does her party piece

Libby Purves on the BBC's return to the simpler days of parlour recital

Week after week, whether by the Prince of Wales or the National Curriculum Council, the decline of finely tuned English is loudly mourned. Today, on half a shoestring and almost by accident, the BBC brings comfort.

Imagine, shambling home from a day of politically correct school English and expecting only impoverished soap-speak, unsuspecting children will punch the button and find themselves confronted by Miriam Margolyes speaking fluent Belloc, or Leo McKern ruminating: "Come, friendly bombs and fall on Slough..."

They will wonder when the action starts: do we see the bombs, will Henry King be played by Macaulay Culkin and chew real string? No: just words. Home entertainment has come full circle and the Party Piece is back. By this time next year it could be *de rigueur* for every home to have at least one family member who can do *Dangerous Dan McGrew*.

There are four reciters: Leo McKern, Miriam Margolyes, Hugh Laurie and the darkly gorgeous Louise Lombard, whose cleavage quivers splendidly during her rendering of *Jellie Cats*. They demonstrate, in 11 sessions, the fine cadences, daring rhymes, subtle jokes and masterly language of English light verse. From Lewis Carroll to Wendy Cope they recite with spirit; they do Coward and Betjeman, Belloc and Eliot and Anon. It is magnificent. It brings tears to the eyes. It is terribly cheap.

For daytime TV is penurious, and staff who once commanded armies at Kensington House have been driven out into the tiny inventive worlds of independent production like so many Borrowers. One day someone was bound to rediscover simplicity: television is traditionally too nervous even to tell a *Jackanory* story without 20 expensive illustrations. Now, driven by need, it has stumbled on the treasure-chest of light verse in the national attic, and done it straight.

Adam Clapham of Griffin Productions says the idea emerged from a bigger, naffer enterprise. "We were in Prague making a film of Good King Wenceslas for the Family Channel. Leo McKern kept reciting in



Leo McKern: inspired others

the hotel bar. Then Miriam Margolyes turned up to play Beethoven's mother in a movie, and we said, why not... The team was completed by Laurie (his *Joan Hunter Dunn* makes strong men quiver) and Louise Lombard. "She was worried, it's not her generation — but she learnt." Indeed, Lombard's "She was poor but she was honest" is definitive.

Research was simplified by the fact that the director, Patricia Houlihan, has all the books. There were no studios: Hugh Laurie was filmed in Houlihan's own front room, impeded by her cat Archie "throwing himself noisily at the catflap and having to be restrained by the graphic designer". She deplored the generation gap: "Nobody under 30 in the crew knew any poetry at all except *Practical Cats*. We converted them." Leo McKern memorised everything and spurned the Autocue: hearts stood still as the old man showed a new generation how to do it, from his elegant *Lobster Quadrille* to Anon's great lines:

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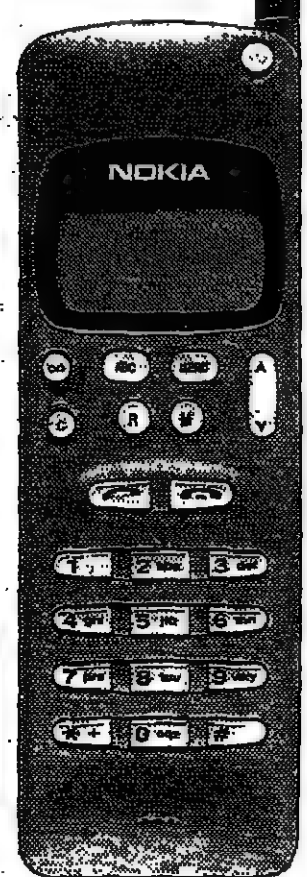
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Governing with the tongue

Seamus Heaney on poetry's relations with the world

What do I mean by "the government of the tongue"? I mean poetry as its own vindicating force. In this dispensation, the tongue (representing both a poet's personal gift of utterance and the common resources of language itself) has been granted the right to govern.

The poetic art is credited with an authority of its own. Poetry's special status among the literary arts derives from the audience's readiness to concede to it a similar efficacy and resource. The poet is credited with a power to open unexpected and unedited communications between our nature and the nature of the reality we inhabit.

The oldest evidence for this attitude appears in the Greek notion that when a lyric poet gives voice, "it is a god that speaks". And the attitude persists into the 20th century: one thinks of Rilke's restatement of it in his *Sonnets to Orpheus* and, in English, we may cite the familiar instance of Robert Frost's essay "The Figure a Poem Makes".

For Frost, any interference by the knowing intellect in the purely disinterested imagination constitutes poetic sabotage, an affront to the legislative and executive powers of expression itself.

"Read it a hundred times," says Frost of the true poem. "It can never lose its sense of a meaning that once unfolded by surprise as it went... it begins in delight, it inclines to the impulse, it assumes direction with the first line laid down, it runs a course of lucky events and ends in a clarification of life, not necessarily a great clarification, such as sects and cults are founded on, but in a momentary stay against confusion."

In this way, the order of art becomes an achievement intimating a possible order beyond itself, although its relation to that further order remains promissory rather than obligatory. Art is not an inferior reflection of some ordained heavenly system, but a rehearsal of it in earthly terms; art does not trace the given map of a better reality, but improvises an inspired sketch of it.

However, a voice from another part of the speaks in rebuke. "Govern your tongue," it says, compelling to remember that my title can also imply a denial of the tongue's autonomy. One remembers Gerard Manley Hopkins's "Habit of Perfection", with its command to the eyes to be "shelled", the ears to attend to silence and the tongue to know its place:

Shape nothing, lips: be lovely-dumb:
It is the shua, the curfew sent
From there where all
Tumblers come
Which only makes you eloquent.

It is even more instructive to remember that Hopkins abandoned poetry when he entered the Jesuit order, "as not having to do with my vocation". This discloses a condition of public and private repression, where the undirected hedonistic play of imagination

is regarded at best as luxury or licentiousness, at worst as heresy or treason.

In ideal Platonic republics, in Soviet republics, in the Vatican and Bible-belt, it is a common expectation that the writer will sign over his or her venturesome and potentially disruptive activity into the keeping of an official doctrine, a traditional system, a party line, whatever.

We have grown familiar with the tragic destiny which these circumstances impose upon poets and with the way in which "ungoverned" poetry and poets, in extreme totalitarian conditions, can become a form of alternative government, or government in exile.

I was struck, for example, to learn that lines by the poet Czeslaw Milosz are incorporated into the memorial to the Solidarity workers outside the gates of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

But I was stunned by the image which Andrei Sinyavsky provides of the subversive and necessary function of writing as truth-telling, when he tells how, at the height of the Stalin terror, Alexander Kuznetsov used to seal his manuscripts in glass preserving jars and bury them in his garden at night-time.

It is all there: the suggestion of art's curative powers, its stored goodness and its ultimate appeal to "the reader in posterity". The scene has the perturbing oniric reality of an actual dream and could stand for the kind of ominous premonition which a dictator might experience, waking in the small hours and remembering the reality of the poetry he would construe.

For the moment, however, I am concerned with states of affairs less repressive and less malign. I am thinking not so much of authoritarian censorship as of an implacable consensus in which the acceptable themes are given variously resourceful treatments, and in which the felicity or correctness of a work's execution constitutes the conspicuous focus of attention for both audience and artist.

It is not right to assume that such conditions always produce inferior art. As a poet, for example, George Herbert surrendered himself to a framework of belief and an instituted religion; but in his case, it happened that his personality was structured in such a way that he could dwell in amity with doctrine, writing a poetry which was intellectually pure, emotionally robust and entirely authentic.

Its discipline, however, proved equal to its challenges, so that a pun on the word *choir*, meaning both outburst of anger and emblem of submission, could hold the psychic and artistic balance, and a rhyme of "child" with "wild" could put the distress of his personal predicament in a divinely ordained perspective.

The author yesterday won the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature. This article is extracted from his collection of essays *The Government of the Tongue* (Faber & Faber).



"NOT ONLY DID HE PLAY THE RACE CARD, BUT HE DEALT IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE DECK."

The Jews who choose

Though rabbis wail and priests gnash their teeth, indifference to religion is spreading inexorably

Who said this, and why? "A hundred years ago we had the faith but not the land. Today we have the land, but what has happened to the faith?"

The words come from Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Britain. Two days ago he, and all devout Jews, were participating in the most solemn rite of Jewry: Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

I am a Jew, but I was not taking part in the prayers and the rituals. I confess — and Dr Sacks, if he reads these words, will shake his head in sorrow and pain — that I did not even know what special day it was, and I went about all my secular doings, ignorant of the day's significance, until a *Times* colleague and a Christian, too — enlightened me.

I am not proud of the words above, but neither do I feel shame. My question is: should I?

I know, of course, that I have lost something precious, or at least beautiful, in abandoning the faith of my forebears. My home was not a religious one; my grandfather read the scriptures to himself silently and struggled through a little English; my grandmother, who could read no language at all, lit a candle on the appropriate days, as did my mother, though for her it was not really a religious sign. My uncles were quite secular (one played the cello in the band of the Savoy Hotel — best that), and had hardly anything to do with the religion of their father and grandfather. My amazing aunt Edith, who died a year or so ago at 95, was a *shiksa* (Christian), and thus suspect in the family, but I never heard of her going to any kind of church.

But as Dr Sacks well knows, he is fighting a losing cause, and I cannot help him in it. I quote:

What has happened to a people that survived longer than any other, in conditions more arduous than any other, that suddenly we have begun to lose the will to live as Jews? ... Today Jews are free, and accepted, and successful, and above all we have a home. Is it possible that the greatest danger to Jewish survival will turn out to be, God forbid, not Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia but our own indifference?

And, as Rabbi Sacks knows to his grief, the answer is yes. Yes, the Jewish people, living in perfect safety, will die of their indifference. And not, as Rabbi Sacks instantly

saw, their differences. But here is a test, I think a grim one.

All round me on my desk as I write are cuttings. They are all about the same thing: the recently discovered huge sums of money, most in Swiss banks, which have been traced to the fallen Jews. It seems that money and valuables were smuggled into Switzerland, the owners' hopes being that one day they would reclaim their own.

Alas, there was to be no own, but now there are the offspring of the fallen, and they are claiming their rightful sums.

But the World Jewish Congress and other agencies acting on behalf of Holocaust victims said that the forsaken deposits represented only a fraction of the wealth confiscated from Jewish victims in Eastern Europe that may have been stashed by the Nazis in Swiss banks or safe deposit boxes ... the Nazi boss Heinrich Himmler for example ... sent a hoard of paintings, jewellery and money, stolen from Hungarian Jews, to Switzerland towards the end of the war ...

Yes, but would you wish to claim money that had passed through the hands of Heinrich Himmler? And even if you didn't mind, what about the arguments that are breaking out every day now, in which one Swiss banker says that the billions believed to be hidden never existed, and another banker says that even greater sums did exist, and the Swiss demand at least £500 to search for possible treasure, and ...

Well, I think Rabbi Sacks must have taken the point. Where will he go to find those spotless Jews who reject the very idea of marrying out of the faith? Where will he find the ranks upon ranks to fill his noble endeavour? How will I and so many other reject — gently, I hope — the very idea of going back to our Jewish roots, when we rush to pick over the stolen necklace that once adorned the neck of Goering's wife?

But we Jews aren't the only ones.

Solzhentzsyn, after his return to Russia, has found that his voice is heeded by only a few, or at least followed by a few. The world goes round, and will not stop; Russia is crumbling, and the mighty edifice that Solzhentzsyn should by now be exceeding has been little more than a whistle-stop journey.

But we don't need to go anywhere near Russia to find such disappointment: how many empty churches of the Church of England are there now, and how many will there be ten years hence, and how many in another ten years?

The Papacy shivers, believing that any prop that breaks will sooner or later bring down the whole edifice, and yet faithful Roman Catholic priests want to be ordinary people. And why should the Jews be different?

Because, comes the answer, the Jews are different. Yes, but one by one, and ten by ten, and thousands by thousands, the Jews are becoming wholly secular, and not Rabbi Sacks nor the Bed Din, nor the memories of Jewry will stop them. We look to the United States, where there are more Jews than there are in Israel, and their numbers are shrinking too. The Rabbi points to the numbers of Jews who marry "out of the faith": if the numbers in the synagogues are falling, it means the same thing. And if this tide continues there will be no breakwaters. I cheat: there is no *if*, and the tide will go on rising.

Over the centuries, whole nations have disappeared, not just by tides and starvation and epidemic; look up and see Tibet, one of the greatest nations the world has ever seen, which in less than a couple of generations will be no more. (True, Tibet will have been destroyed by China's evil and the rest of the world's cowardice, but that doesn't make it any better.)

And here I am, a Jew who doesn't really understand what being a Jew means, and even as I say that, Rabbi Sacks shakes his head again in sorrow. But I don't really understand what being a Jew means. Nevertheless, one thing is certain: I am not alone in my bewilderment. And that bewilderment can mean one thing only: that we shall not be coming back to the fold, and nor will our descendants.

Why is the world — well, almost all the world — dispensing with religion? Yes, of course that is a ridiculous thing to say, for very many millions say religion is the most important thing in their lives. Assuredly, Rabbi Sacks does. But overall, the numbers shrink. And it can't always be Dr Richard Dawkins who frightens the rest of us off.

Are we to think that the only place in which a religion is taken completely and seriously is the black side of Algeria? Algeria, where more than 30,000 people have been murdered in the last few years, solely to destroy Algeria entirely. And in what name is Algeria to be wiped out? Allah's. For the Muslim fanatics will not cease their murdering until they can rule in Algeria, and a mad, savage and wicked rule it will be. Presumably, the idea is to make the whole world Muslim, so Rabbi Sacks and apostate Levin will be in the same boat.

I have come far from the wise, gentle, far-seeing Rabbi Sacks. But what or who will bring back young Jewry to the faith, when young Jewry hardly knows what a Jew is? Perhaps I should say that of myself.

And yet the Rabbi must not despair, for he has a tiny foothold. It is an odd one, but any port in a storm. When I am filling in a form on a form, there is a space labelled "Religion". I don't hesitate, but put Jew.

So I go back to where we started. Am I a Jew? If I do not pray with the Jews, and sing with the Jews, and cover my head with the Jews, and refuse to eat pork with the Jews, and read books backwards with the Jews, how can I be a Jew? Well, don't forget the form that I filled in.

Rabbi Sacks will not give in, of course, and he makes that clear, saying:

I am calling for us to reflect, not only on an individual return but a collective return towards a less secular mode of Jewish existence.

Does he believe that can happen? Or does he just wish it would?

Reported without prejudice

Magnus Linklater on Scotland's stringent controls

Scandalous, unfair, outrageous and oppressive. Routine hyperbole in the mouth of a politician, these words carry some weight when spoken by a Crown Court judge. They were used this week by Judge Sanders to describe the way the tabloid press reported on the Geoff Knights case before it came to court. His propensity for violence was portrayed in headlines like "Beastie" — which were so prejudicial in the judge's view, that Mr Knights could no longer have a fair trial.

Trial by tabloid has now become so familiar in England that Scottish journalists occasionally have to pinch themselves to remember that they are living in the same kingdom. Although Scotland is governed by the same laws of contempt as England, the way they are interpreted is totally different. If Scottish editors had run such stories about Mr Knights's private life in advance of his trial, they would now be in jail.

Whether this means that Scottish practice should be emulated in England is another matter. Most journalists north of the border would argue that the balance has swung too far the other way. Huge fines have been handed out for misdemeanours which would scarcely be noticed now in England. The classic case is the £20,000 fine imposed on the Editor of the *Glasgow Herald* in 1979 for running a story about a Dutch drugs gang. It gave details of a drug ring smashed by police. The inference was that the men arrested had been involved. The information was based on a police report from England and was checked by a lawyer, but it so scandalised the judge, Lord Clyde, that in handing down the sentence, he imposed an extra fine of £750 on the editor personally.

There have been several similar cases, most of them committed through ignorance, some because of reports from English agencies. In 1986, commenting on a case in which the *Daily Express* was fined £30,000, Lord Emswale gave the clearest exposition of what he believed the standards of reporting should be: "Our system of criminal justice in Scotland depends essentially upon the proposition that jurors called to try an accused person should arrive in the jury box without knowledge or impression of facts, or alleged facts, relating to the crime charge on the indictment."

But it is in the interpretation of that dictum that the crucial difference lies. Scottish newspapers are governed by the same Act as their English counterparts: the 1981 Contempt of Court Act. Its aim was to liberalise the law. In Scotland, however, it seems to have had the opposite effect. Judges have continued to take a dim view of the smallest misdemeanour, and the Lord Advocate has continued to restrain papers.

But the restraint has not always been uniform. When I was Editor of *The Scotsman*, we heard that Jim McLean, then the manager of Dundee United, had been involved in an altercation with a television cameraman at Edinburgh airport. He had not put too fine a point on it, he had butted him. Inquiries revealed that Mr McLean had been "held" by police for questioning, though whether he had been charged was unclear. However, the contempt laws clearly applied and we ran only a small anonymous paragraph about "a man" involved in "an incident". Next day *The Sun* carried the full story, together with a picture of Mr McLean. No prosecution followed. I registered a strong complaint with the Crown Office in Edinburgh, making the point that if we had run the story I would undoubtedly have been in court next day. "Ah," said an official, "but you would never have done that at *The Scotsman*, would you?"

Now is this the only inconsistency in the Scottish system. Two papers which reported a recent case of an escaped killer on the run found themselves being dealt with in very different ways. One, the *Evening Times* of Glasgow, said that the man, who had been in custody, might be dangerous. It also published his picture. The other, the *Daily Record*, wrongly described him as a killer, but made no mention of the fact that he would shortly be standing trial. The *Record* got off, but the *Evening Times* was fined £2,750 on the ground that potential witnesses might be influenced.

More important, perhaps, is the way in which the threat of severe sanctions has muzzled the press in Scotland. There is a marked absence of the investigative reporting that should be carried out when a crime has been committed. The mere knowledge that police are "questioning" a man, "holding" him or keeping him under arrest, is often enough to persuade editors to call off their reporters. One lawyer calls it the "chilling effect", and it is not a healthy one for journalism.

So, while legal experts would do well to look hard at the system in Scotland, which offers a suspect greater protection from prejudicial reporting than anywhere else in the world, they should do so with one eye at least on the way in which it curtails the investigative instincts of a vigorous press.

No Joy here

TONY BLAIR'S posse of image consultants and spin-doctors has been afflicted by a bout of firefighting. So strained are relations between the Labour leader's advisers that many are predicting that one of them — the former BBC political news editor, Joy Johnson — is about to resign.

Johnson is Blair's director of campaigns, elections and media. Her brief is to organise Labour's bid for power, along with Peter Mandelson and Blair's belligerent press secretary, Alastair Campbell. But on Monday night, she was said to be close to tears after yet another "bust-up" with her comrades.

As rumours flew around Brighton yesterday, Joy Johnson — who in February left behind a salary of at least £50,000 at the BBC to join the party — was forced to deny any plans to leave. But she later informed former colleagues at the corporation that she did not intend to put up with the situation for much longer.

"She says her opinion is never sought, and if she ventures a view, it is ignored," says a confidante. "She is thoroughly disillusioned with the lot of them, and I believe

she'll be out of the Labour Party within weeks."

The final straw came, apparently, when Campbell decided to plead with the BBC to give Blair's

conference speech priority in news bulletins over the O.J. Simpson acquittal. There are many who believe that, with her contacts, she might have taken a less ham-fisted approach than Campbell.

● Due deference is being shown by staff at the London Evening Standard, where Max Hastings arrives as Editor in January. The car park warning "Max Headroom 7P" has already been altered to read "Mr Max Headroom".

Chuffed TRAINSPOTTERS are on the edge of their platforms. In an attempt to improve the image of the Thermos flask and notebook brigade, the Institute of Railway Studies in York is running a series of lectures entitled "Casting off the Anorak".

"This course aims to break the mould — and persuade people to throw away their anoraks," proclaims a spokesman, complaining that the popular press perpetuates the myth that an interest in railways reflects some form of personal inadequacy.

● The Terrence Higgins Trust, an Aids charity, has given away 1,200 free condoms so far this week at the Labour Party conference. But pro-

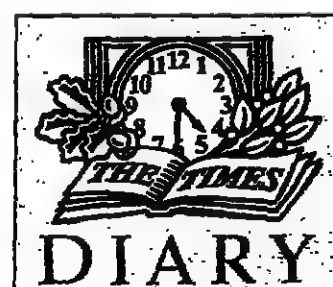
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DIARY

dery precludes such generosity at the Conservatives' conference in Blackpool next week, where the trust has taken a stand for the first time. "We don't mind literature being displayed," said the Conservatives. "But the conference will not be requiring condoms."

Extra time GAVIN HASTINGS, captain of Scotland and former captain of the British Lions, returned to his alma mater on Monday and fell into bad old habits. As an undergraduate at Magdalene, he was a member of the Wyvern, a legendary Cambridge drinking society, where he broke the initiation record by downing three and a half pints of beer in 35 seconds.

His visit this week coincided with the society's drinking night in

the Pickering Arms near the college. "He wasn't wearing a tie when he came in," says a fellow member, "and the penalty is to buy a round for everyone. He had to buy 13 pints."

Doddering on WAS the audience at the Princess Theatre at Hunstanton in Norfolk laughing or yawning? The other day it sat through four hours and ten minutes of Ken Dodd's trickery and tickle-sucking, as he broke his own world record for the longest

stand-up comedy show. "He just went on and on and on. It was very funny and the audience all stayed to the end, but we were thinking about leaving the key under the mat and asking him to lock up when he left. He eventually wound up at 12.45am," says a member of the theatre staff.

Dodd's limitless stamina is well recorded. "The problem is getting him off the stage," says his publicist of 25 years, Robert Holmes. "When he was last at the Palladium it was part of his contract that he had to be off stage by 10.30 or he would be liable for all the overtime. He had a light that came on in front of him when time was up. He came off very promptly."

Ladder of law COMMERCIAL opportunism has reached new heights, now that O.J. Simpson has been found not guilty. As crowds gathered yesterday outside his home, a local garden centre dispatched a lorryload of ladders to the fans craning for a peek at the former footballer. A dozen or so of the ladders sold immediately to the onlookers, who propped them against Simpson's hedge and climbed up for a better view.

P-H-S

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P-H-S

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WHITE HEAT

Technology is an insufficient basis for new politics

Tony Blair's most unexpected *coup de théâtre* this week was his announcement of a deal with British Telecom which would give the company greater market freedom in return for the wiring up of every school, hospital and library to the information superhighway. Among computer analysts, this sort of declaration is called "vapourware", the entrepreneurial announcement of a distant objective in order to scare off prospective competitors. Mr Blair may not be Prime Minister, but he is already acting like one.

The doubts surrounding this particular announcement are clear. Most schools, for instance, lack the hardware required to take advantage of this offer, having invested in primitive computers during the 1980s. On average, schoolchildren are taught computer technology for only 20 minutes a week and the majority of that time is spent on simple word processing. The prospect of thousands of crumbling municipal buildings each with a single terminal linked to the Internet scarcely stirs the soul.

Yet it is the message rather than the detail of Mr Blair's deal with BT that matters. The national grid of optical fibres which it would produce is emblematic of broader themes tackled by the Opposition leader this week. In his speech on Tuesday, he put technology at the centre of his vision for a revitalised Britain; he made it a metaphor for progress. "The combination of know-how and technology will transform the lives of us all," he said. He invited his party to imagine "European business finalising a deal with the Japanese, with simultaneous translation down the phone line". He envisaged an education system in which every child had access to a laptop computer. Mr Blair's speech owed far more to Newt Gingrich than to Aneurin Bevan or even Hugh Gainskill.

In this respect, the politics of new Labour are converging with the politics of many on the Tory Right. John Redwood has consistently emphasised the liberating effect of technology and the importance of the information revolution. He has imported to Britain Mr Gingrich's argument that the free market in tandem with information technology will transform citizenship and make redundant the old-fashioned bureaucratic State. There will be much discussion of such themes at next week's Conservative Party

conference. The Right will have to decide whether it likes this approach or prefers Michael Portillo's less futuristic emphasis upon British institutions and traditional virtues such as honour, prudence and thrift.

What does this new preoccupation add up to? The mighty have always loved to associate themselves with the wonders of science and technology. Just as the oligarchs of the Renaissance city states revelled in new naval and commercial technology, so the Soviet Union in its early years celebrated electrification as the soul of the proletariat's dictatorship. Churchill kept Professor Frederick Lindemann close beside him; Ronald Reagan made the Strategic Defence Initiative — the so-called "Star Wars" programme — the heart of his efforts to end the Cold War through scientific superiority.

Mr Blair's speech invited mocking comparisons with Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" vision in 1963. Yet it is easy to forget how politically effective this vision was. It was a symbolic means of distinguishing Wilson's Labour from the Conservatism of Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. It signified the passing of a generation. In their different ways, Mr Blair, Mr Redwood and Mr Gingrich are aspiring to the same goal. Radical Conservatives see "third wave" information technology as a libertarian force, empowering individuals and freeing them from the grip of the State. Communitarians such as Mr Blair see the information superhighway as a high street running through civic society, repairing communities and updating the institutions of the welfare state.

The technology card has often been a useful one to play. Yet it is no basis for a social vision. What matters is not that all pupils have access to a laptop, but how they use them. Fibre optic technology does not teach children how to spell or add up. Nor does it necessarily teach adults to be better citizens. Why trust Newt Gingrich's vision of technology rather than Aldous Huxley's? In the midst of this new political vogue, it is worth remembering that technology is not an end in itself but one means among many. The celebration of technology does not excuse politicians from the duty to spell out their plans and principles. The hardware is important; but it is software that counts.

THE REDRESS OF POETRY

The poet Heaney lives on the 'frontier of writing'

Seamus Heaney has won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Those who know his verses will rejoice: few if any poets now writing in the English language can point to a body of work of comparable quality to that of Mr Heaney's *New Selected Poems, 1966-1987*. His prose is scarcely less distinguished than his poetry. *The Governance of the Tongue*, an extract from which appears opposite, gives a remarkable insight into the workings of the poetic mind. He has excelled, too, as a teacher: his recently published Oxford lectures are a fitting testimony to his memorable tenure of the Professorship of Poetry.

So: a brilliant literary career; commensurate stature as a public figure in Ireland, North and South; and a personal magnetism to which all who have met him will attest. What more could even the notoriously fastidious Swedish Academy of Letters have asked? And yet the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a writer ought not to reward mere fame and success — for they are often transient. One must dig deeper for the true reason why Seamus Heaney does indeed deserve the Nobel Prize, as W.B. Yeats and Samuel Beckett did before him.

The answer must lie in Heaney's insights into Ireland and the Irish — a quasi-political responsibility which transcends the normal vocation of the poet. The period from 1969 to 1994, euphemistically known as the Troubles, was anything but a normal experience

for those who lived through it. A writer who had nothing adequate to say about the violence and hatred of those years would not deserve to be honoured at home, let alone abroad.

Seamus Heaney, however, has more than done his duty to his people. In his first major collection, published 30 years ago, he evoked the present misery of his fellow Roman Catholics, as well as their ancestors in the great famine of the 1840s with *At a Potato Digging*: "A people hungering from birth, / grubbing, like plants, upon the earth, / were grafted with great sorrow, / Hope rooted like a marrow." In his maturity a decade later, he wrote *Punishment*, a poem about the tarring and lynching of an adulterer, but there was a much wider — and wholly contemporary message — for those "who would connive / in civilised outrage / yet understand the exact / and tribal, intimate revenge." Mr Heaney does not mince his words.

His Nobel Prize coincides with a new beginning for Northern Ireland. This is a chance for the poet to return to his roots in Londonderry: not to live, for he is happily settled in Dublin, but for an extended stay, perhaps, during which his muse may get to work. Seamus Heaney still needs his native land, as inspiration if not as domicile. And his countrymen certainly need his gentle but unsparing wisdom.

UPWARDLY MOBILE

Give a dog a good name

How heartening is the news that Bullseye, the abandoned burglar's dog who showed police the way to his home and thus to the address of their wanted man, is now going straight in the grandest imaginable style. From a life of crime on a council estate in Northumberland, via a city animals' shelter when his apprehended master spurned him, he has been spirited away in a chauffeur-driven car by John Paul Getty II and taken up residence on the tycoon's Buckinghamshire estate.

Renamed after the villainous Bill Sykes's canine companion in *Oliver Twist*, Bullseye follows in the distinguished paw-steps of literary dogs who have served as instruments of crime and punishment. Sherlock Holmes's Hound of the Baskervilles was just one of a long line of Carlos's, Pompeys, Roys and Tobys to play a decisive role in the plots of the mystery stories. Tintin's Snowy was an astute scourge of wrongdoers on several continents.

So far, so noble. Bullseye must now come to terms with a more difficult although equally familiar literary role as the hero of a rags-to-riches saga. We await news of how he fares in the company of the Getty household's other dogs, who have not enjoyed as robust a life as he. Having spent his young life as a burglar's accomplice, the sight of the philanthropist's silver and paintings (to say nothing of Mrs Getty's glittering jewels) are likely to provide sore temptation.

The social implications of Bullseye's fate are substantial. Newcastle's Animal Shelter had no hesitation in handing him over to the Gettys, who amply fulfilled requirements by providing not one but several good homes for him. Could this not be construed as the four-legged version of the assisted places scheme to which Labour remains opposed, on the ground that rescuing the few from underprivilege is not an adequate response to inequality? Staunch Tories, on the other hand, will applaud Bullseye's initiative and hope that he provides inspiration to others.

But the assumption that animals want to be rescued from circumstances which we in our anthropomorphic limitation consider to be undesirable is flawed. When the Berlin Wall fell, pitching the hundreds of German shepherd dogs who patrolled the closed border into redundancy, well-meaning West German families offered homes by the score to the four-legged defenders of the vanquished Communist order.

Like their human counterparts, however, they adapted grudgingly to their new environment, developing digestive problems because of the richness of Western dogfood and becoming irritable owing to lack of exercise. A substantial number were returned to the authorities for placement with the united German border troops or as police dogs. Happiness for some will always be the hard life, however appealing the soft option may sound to us.

Europe at odds on EMU target

From Mr Christopher Johnson

Sir, Your leader today, "Death of an EMU", is wishful thinking. You report on the front page that the European finance ministers in Valencia confirmed the target date of January 1, 1999, for the start of the single currency, together with the reported view of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that this date could be missed by two years, but that if it was postponed "the world would not collapse".

Your leader also says that it is "almost impossible" for France to satisfy the Maastricht criteria by 1999. Yet France already satisfies all the criteria except the budget deficit of 3 per cent of GDP, and has published its commitment to reach this target by 1997, the year now to be used in examining the statistics. (The UK plans to reduce its deficit to 2½ per cent of GDP by 1996-97, and is thus also expected to pass this criterion.)

How can your leader-writer then conclude that "it is now almost impossible to imagine a sequence of events that will lead to a monetary union in Europe in the foreseeable future"?

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
(UK Adviser, Association for the Monetary Union of Europe),
39 Wood Lane, N6,
October 2.

From Mr Jack Butler

Sir, Surely there is no need for damaging and divisive debate concerning Britain's membership of the EMU and its adoption of a single currency. All we need to do is to stop trailing the opt-out flag and remind our fellow members gently that it still exists, but that we have an open mind about using it.

Next, we should support Germany firmly in its call for the tightest possible application of the convergence criteria before members are allowed to conform to — and oppose equally firmly — any attempt to fudge them. However, we do not necessarily have to struggle too hard ourselves to meet those criteria if in doing so our national interests or economic health are damaged; and, of course if we do not meet them, we are disqualified from joining until we do.

Conventional diplomacy, conviction, political principle over pragmatism — these have never been our way and never should be.

Yours faithfully,
JACK BUTLER,
Flat 5, Park Court,
84 Park Road, Southport, Merseyside.
October 2.

From Mr Colin Hannaford

Sir, I certainly would not disagree with you that today, now that Chancellor Kohl has made clear that he has changed his mind on EMU, the future of Europe has been "transformed". But does this not speak to you very clearly of the present state of democracy in Europe? And of its future: what of that?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HANNAFORD,
10 Marlborough Court, Oxford.
October 2.

Studying from home

From Mr Duncan Heenan

Sir, Your Education Correspondent (report, October 2) gives little weight to simple lack of money as a force in the increasing trend for university students to live at home.

This trend is likely to increase with the progressive phasing out of student grants. A full maintenance grant now just about covers the cost of a room rental for a year, leaving all other study and living costs to be met by, usually, parents.

Although studying from home is cheaper than living away, it is a retrograde trend. Study is only part of the university experience, and forcing students to study in their home town also reduces the choice of course available to them. Ultimately the scaling down of state support for higher education will make it unavailable to bright youngsters who happen to have parents of slender means.

Like many children of the Sixties, I would never have gone to university if I had not had a grant. I would be happy to pay higher taxes for my resulting higher earnings to help others to do so now. Student grants are a long-term investment for us all.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN HEENAN,
21 Gothering Lane,
Bishops Cleeve,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
October 2.

Put in our place

From Mr Trevor Mound

Sir, A pedestal? Certainly not for any Letters Editor who will allow "Who shall we put on our pedestals?" as a headline (letters, October 5).

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR MOUND,
8 Beaufort East, Bath, Avon.
October 5.

Sports letters, page 43

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-8046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's stance on nuclear tests

From the New Zealand High Commissioner

Sir, Your editorial of October 4 defends Britain's stance of not criticising French nuclear testing upon the grounds that the environmental dangers are overstated and that the French have "justified their nuclear tests ... to ensure the safety of that country's nuclear arsenal". Regrettably, it does not debate this conclusion with the contrary opinion — that there are significant risks in using such dangerous material and that the French have not begun to justify why they need to develop better and new nuclear warheads at this time.

But, also, I believe that your discussion of the issue is too narrow. At a time when nations are seeking to promote world peace and to prevent the use of catastrophic weapons, the French are flying in the face of these efforts by expanding their nuclear capability.

Likewise, France is setting a bad example to nations or organisations, less democratised and less responsible than itself, who might develop such weapons. Is that the way for a responsible nation to behave?

The French justification is that their testing is necessary for world security. However, most countries do not want to be protected either by France or by its deterrent.

You chastise New Zealand and Australia for losing their "customary poise" and for being "simplistic" and "opportunistic". Yet our stance has the support of virtually all countries of the Pacific, Asia, Americas, Africa, and the significant majority of European countries.

Britain should not be the target in this debate, nor is it the "bad guy". It is not testing. It will sign the comprehensive test ban treaty. Furthermore, Britain has its own relationship with France to consider. But your editorial should also reflect that Britain could be isolated in its views in the face of world opinion; and, as indicated above, there are broader questions at issue here than those you raise.

Yours truly,
JOHN COLLINGS,
New Zealand High Commissioner,
New Zealand House,
80 Haymarket, SW1.
October 4.

From Mr Daniel Gowan

Sir, As a New Zealander resident in the United Kingdom who maintains a continuing interest in the Pacific region, I believe that your editorial is wide of the mark. Whilst it is certainly the case that many of the protesters in Tahiti and the surrounding areas of the South Pacific do support the total abandonment of nuclear weapons, the

widespread support for protest from virtually all governments and people who live in the South Pacific area goes far beyond the narrow constituency of those who seek a total end to nuclear weapons.

The great majority of those who live in the South Pacific do not object to France or any other major power possessing nuclear weapons. What they object to is France conducting nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific. If the tests are technically required, as you suggest, and are safe, as France says, then why can they not be conducted in France where there is an abundant land mass?

The answer of course is that it is politically unacceptable. In the view of France what is politically unacceptable at home is acceptable in the South Pacific. It is simply a case of "mind over matter" — France does not mind and the people of the South Pacific do not matter.

The testing of French nuclear weapons in the South Pacific is morally indefensible and Britain knows this and should say so.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL GOWAN,
Davies Arnold Cooper
(Solicitors),
6-8 Bouverie Street, EC4.
October 4.

From Mr M. R. Field

Sir, It is one thing to support the principle of nuclear testing and quite another to say that it is acceptable to hold tests in someone else's backyard. The "acute understanding of sovereign rights" that you attribute to Britain obviously doesn't extend to the peoples of the Pacific.

Yours sincerely,
M. R. FIELD,
Stable House, Salisbury Hall,
London Colney, Hertfordshire.
October 4.

From the Marquis of Lansdowne

Croix de Guerre, Légion d'Honneur
Sir, I feel sure that many of your readers will have been as pleased as I was to be reassured that the old Thunderer continues to express strong and sensible arguments to counter simplistic and opportunistic attitudes.

Perhaps it is only a semantic point, but I would have admired your leading article even more had you urged Britain to stand up for France over nuclear testing. Do we not, on so many important issues, content ourselves with standing by?

Yours faithfully,
LANSDOWNE (President,
The Franco-British Society),
Melkour House, Perth.
October 5.

US attitude to Balkan conflict

From Professor Bruce Collins

Sir, Sir Fitzroy Maclean ("Marshall Plan for Balkans", September 28) commands respect for his knowledge and understanding of the former Yugoslavia, but his suggestion seems to me to be flawed. Initiatives modelled on the Marshall aid programme are often proposed without appreciating why the prototype emerged.

First, the US became a central European power in 1945, responsible for administering a large part of Germany. This astonishing, sudden change in America's world role alarmed many Americans. Moreover, by 1947 the costs of controlling and sustaining an economically crippled Germany were becoming unacceptably high: those costs would only fall if Germany's economy revived.

Second, after 1945 the US became the world's leading trading country, another dramatic break with the past. Over one third of American visible exports went to Europe. But American visible imports from Europe were worth only a fraction of American goods entering Europe: unless Europe's ability to pay suddenly ex-

panded, there was a danger that American exporting would collapse and unemployment soar.

Third, by mid-1947 the US had accepted the need to contain Soviet communism. American policy-makers believed that economic recovery would prevent Western Europe falling to internal communist subversion encouraged by Moscow. A massive programme of economic aid to Western Europe thus met US administrative, economic and strategic interests.

Former Yugoslavia has no comparable significance for contemporary America, or indeed for Western Europe. A plausible and powerful case of Western involvement arises from our desire for regional stability and from moral objections to ethnic cleansing. But if Western Europeans cannot be spurred to concerted action by that case, one can scarcely expect Americans to be swayed by it.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE COLLINS,
University of Buckingham,
School of Humanities,
Buckingham MK18 1EG.
October 3.

Rail sell-off

From the Minister for Railways and Roads

Sir, I was saddened by the quite unjustified pessimism of today's report on the rail privatisation timetable. Let me summarise where we stand.

At the moment some 40 per cent of passenger rail services are on the market for franchising. The first three franchises — Great Western, LTS Rail and South West Trains — are in the final stages of the bidding process and are due to be awarded by the end of the year.

Bidders for a further four — InterCity East Coast, Midland Mainline, Gatwick Express and Network SouthCentral — have until December 8 to lodge indicative bids. The sales of another two — Chiltern and South Eastern Trains — were launched today.

Faced with this evidence, your report's assertion that the Government may now fail to sell a single passenger franchise by April 1 is simply unsupported. The fact is that, far from faltering, the franchising programme is gathering increasing momentum, as your correspondents should know.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WATTS,
The Department of Transport,
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street, SW1.
October 3.

Trial by television and on television

From Controller, Editorial Policy, BBC

Sir, There is one overwhelming concern to be addressed before television cameras are given regular access to the courts in Britain (reports and article, October 5): if justice is seen to be done, will justice be done?

But the conduct of the American media in reporting the O. J. Simpson case has less to do with the presence of television cameras and everything to do with the existence of the First Amendment (on freedom of speech). If O. J.'s trial had taken place here, cameras and all, the Contempt of Court Act would have ensured that none of the speculative and prejudicial material that Americans have seen and heard over the past year would have been broadcast.

Britain has no First Amendment. If Parliament ever decides to introduce a statutory guarantee of freedom of speech in Britain, that will be the time to ensure that it is compatible with the entitlement to a fair trial. Until then the problem will not arise, whether cameras are allowed into court or not.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD AYRE,
Controller, Editorial Policy, BBC,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
October 5.

From Mr Jonathan Berman

Sir, The prosecution case in a criminal trial is brought on behalf of the people. Casting light on the workings of lawyers, politicians or the monarchy may not be comfortable or in their interest, but the public is interested.

Exposing to scrutiny and demystifying the workings of these institutions is most certainly in the public interest and should ensure better lawyers, politicians and monarchs in the future.

Yours etc,
JONATHAN BERMAN (barrister),
24a Highgate West Hill, N6.
October 5.

Illegal immigrants

From Mr Roy Munden

Sir, Mr Osman Streater (letter, October 3) seeks an apology from Hong Kong for repatriating illegal immigrants who fled Vietnam to seek refuge from the economic consequences of communism in that country.

During the four decades when I was a citizen of Hong Kong I was proud of our record for accepting refugees. In terms of numbers, this was proportionate to Britain taking in the entire English-speaking population of Canada, fleeing perhaps from a Québecois coup d'état.

A similar analogy for the Vietnamese boat people, in terms of both numbers and cultural similarity, is to imagine British reactions to the sudden arrival of 500,000 Libyans fleeing the regime in that country.

But perhaps Mr Streater is not objecting to the few repatriations themselves but to the even fewer which involved force and the consequent "kicking and screaming" to which he refers.

This could not often happen in this country, of course: we have tended to bind such people hand and foot and wrap adhesive tape round their faces.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MUNDEN
(Executive Director, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 1981-85),
Lower Woodbrook,
Lewton, Taunton, Somerset.
October 3.

Degrees of consistency

From Dr Tony Greenfield, BSc, PhD, CSci

Sir, Professor A. I. Solomon (letter, October 4) assures us that "universities in the UK invariably involve an external examiner in the classification of degrees in order to maintain consistency".

I have today been invited to be an external examiner. The annual fee is £250, which would cover about five days for consideration of proposed examination papers followed by reading students' scripts, plus £50 for each of three day attendances. I shall decline the offer. If the university finds somebody else to do the work it will get no more than it pays for.

Infer what you will about the consistency of degrees.

Yours sincerely,
TONY GREENFIELD,
Middle Cottage,
Little Hucklow, Derbyshire.
October 4.

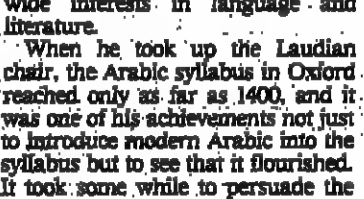
Under lock and key

From Mr David Robinson

Sir, With reference to how the "Chest at Greenwich" was once used as a means to preserve funds for maintaining the Royal Naval College (letter, October 4), may I suggest that it now be used to lock up the defence and heritage ministers, thus obviating the need for custodians of the keys.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBINSON,
72 Garthorne Road,
Forest Hill, SE23.
October 5.

His command of European languages and literatures was equally profound: his knowledge of Welsh enabled him to recommend the *Mabinogion* as suitable background reading for graduate students working on early Arabic literature (though he never actually told them that he



He was a convivial soul, at his best with small groups of students and colleagues, and Orientalist congresses will not be the same without Freddie Beeston's cheerful, unmelodious laugh and his great, hacking cough. To those who knew him well his conviviality and kindness were all

He had lately been coaxed to return to the completion of an edition and translation of another work by al-Jahiz, the *Epistle on the Turks*, on which he had last lectured some twenty years ago; and there is some hope that this will be published posthumously. Sadly, this is not the case with his work on his favourite authors, the pre-Islamic poets. His translation of the *Mufallala* of

He never married; his two loves were Oriental scholarship and Oxford. He served both devotedly. In 1959 after a long drive to a remote, dusty village in the Hadramawt he breathlessly introduced himself to someone who was later to become one of his pupils as "Beeston, Arabic, Oxford". It is hard to think of a neater or more apt description.

Ida Carroll never married, although she nursed her longtime *amour*, Geoffrey Griffiths, a former bursar at the Northern School of Music, through Parkinson's disease until he died in 1993.

Gerald Swyer enjoyed many leisure interests. He was a keen dinghy sailor and a builder and racer of model yachts. He played golf, painted, tinted glass objects, made musical instruments and loved music. His work and family holidays took him on extensive travel at home and abroad.

Gerald Swyer is survived by his wife, Irene (nee Nash) whom he married in 1945, and by a son and daughter.

ism a sombre humour than one of his pages, if not his very bones. His optimism, a persistent faith in intelligence and justice. In his talks with vigorous hatred against slavery, a base and noxious embodiment of the evil of the time. A democrat, he never hesitated, but endeavoured to show the ignorance and the danger which they delivered them up defenceless

ance, a fellow writer, at Zola's funeral.

"He combined social evil wherever he found it. Such were his hatreds. In his latest books he showed his fervent love of mankind. He wished to see on the earth a constantly increasing number of men destined to happiness. He trusted in thought, in science."

"He expected from the new force, machinery, the progressive enfranchisement of laboring humanity. His work is comparable only in greatness with that of Tolstoi. Their works are two vast ideal cities. Both are generous and pacific, but Tolstoi is the city of resignation. Zola's the city of labour."

...friends of the dead novelist, including
Dreyfus, had passed the night by
of his coffin. At 11 o'clock the coffin was
ried down to the vestibule of the Ru
xpelles house, where it rested in
silver-fringed black draperies
neath a large painting of "Truth," a
figure issuing triumphant from the
a monk and a musketeer seek in vain
ing her back into the darkness. Only
friends of M. Zola and his family
newspaper journalists were allowed to
ough the double line of police
municipal guards and to enter the vestibule

"Not by complaints and lamentations is it becoming to celebrate those who leave a grand memory, but by manly eulogiums and by a sincere picture of their work and life. Zola's literary work is immense. When it was seen to rise stone by stone its grandeur was measured with surprise. People admired and were amazed, praised and blamed. Praise and blame were equally vehement. Invektives and apologies were mingled. The work went on ever growing. Now that its colossal form is

Full Moon October 6

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 1995

Ambitious shake-up hits delays Fresh blow to Lloyd's

BY JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has denied that its ambitious £6 billion restructuring plan has run into difficulties, despite missing a key deadline and admitting that the task is proving far more difficult than anticipated. David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, admitted yesterday that the timetable had slipped, but insisted a new package for the market would be in place by the spring as planned.

Lloyd's had hoped to send indicative statements to names by the end of the month, setting out estimates of how much each name would have to pay to "wipe the slate clean". It has been obliged to drop the idea altogether, and says it has no idea how long it will take to provide individual assessments. Mr Rowland said the overall figures remained sound, but the market needed more time to test out the individual names.

The delay came to light in the wake of Wednesday's monthly council meeting. Mr Rowland insisted that the restructuring process was still on track, saying: "We have seen nothing that leads us to be concerned about not meeting our deadline next spring. It would be foolish, not to say morally wrong, to say that if it was not true."

Negotiations had proved difficult at times, but he was confident that Lloyd's would eventually be in a position to make an offer that would be



Peter Middleton, left, and David Rowland are remaining confident



acceptable to all members. Instead of individual statements, names will now be sent a general newsletter, briefing them on progress so far.

The report will include an update on Equitas, the new company designed to draw a line under 1992 and previous year liabilities, and provide an analysis of who will contribute what to the proposed £2.8 billion settlement package. The settlement is designed to end litigation and reduce the cost to members of reinsuring with Equitas. Underwriting agents, their errors and omissions insurers and other parties, including auditors, are expected to contribute about £800 million towards

the package. The report is due to be sent out by the end of October. Names will be canvassed on the proposals towards the end of November.

Peter Middleton, chief executive of Lloyd's, said it was impossible to tell how long it would take to test a theoretical model aimed at assessing how much names would be liable for under the reconstruction plan. Mr Middleton said the planners were entering "absolutely unknown territory", and added: "We just don't know how long it will take. It is much better

to wait and see this last piece in the jigsaw." Overall, Lloyd's finances are proving far more robust than forecast. The rate of collection of money from members is £150 million ahead of the same period last year. The Lloyd's central fund had £660 million in it at the end of September — twice as much as forecast. The fund is now thought unlikely to run out in 1996 as feared, unless the rate of outflow accelerates unexpectedly.

The market outlook for 1995 was "pretty optimistic". Rates were off in a number of areas, but were off from a fairly high peak. Mr Rowland said the market's resilience in the face of bad publicity had been "miraculous", and added: "I absolutely relish the time when we can get on and show the world what we can do."

Lloyd's is particularly sensitive to bad news at the moment. The market was rocked last month by news that Rosalind Gilmore was retiring as director of regulation after barely a year. Ms Gilmore had indicated that she might stay for three years, and her departure sent a worrying signal to the market. She will be succeeded by David Gittings, who joins from the Securities and Futures Authority. Michael Deeny, chairman of the Goods Walker Action Group, has put himself up for election to the Lloyd's council.

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Heat on Lloyd's, page 29

NatWest is first bank to set up works council

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST GROUP will today announce the formation of a worldwide staff council.

The consultation and information forum will far exceed the requirements of the European Union directive from which Mr Hurd helped to negotiate Britain's opt-out.

The forum will embrace directly elected representatives from the bank's 70,000 British workers as well as NatWest staff in countries outside the European Union, setting a benchmark for union negotiation with British companies. Chris Wathen, general manager (human resources), said NatWest had concluded that an annual meeting with staff representatives to discuss financial performance, investment strategy and workplace trends would benefit the business.

Despite Britain's opt-out, NatWest was obliged to set up a works council for some staff because of its retail banking operations in Ireland and Spain. But after 18 months' talks with seven unions from Britain and overseas, the company has concluded that, far from being a burden, a works council will enhance communication between manage-

ment and employees. Its works council will embrace all 95,000 employees in more than 30 countries.

Although unwilling to express a view on Britain's opt-out, Mr Wathen observed that "People don't always take the trouble to read directives and historical baggage is sometimes involved."

Trade unions are delighted by the deal with NatWest, the biggest among more than 30 British employers that have now agreed voluntarily to include their United Kingdom workers in consultation arrangements required in continental Europe.

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, which represents 40,000 staff, said the agreement "gives NatWest a lead in the field of employee involvement in the finance sector."

The deal was welcomed by Biffa, the finance union. Derek Wanless, the NatWest group chief executive, will be co-chairman of the NatWest staff council, alongside an elected employee representative.

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, is about to join the board of NatWest.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3544.4	(+0.3)
Yield	3.56%	
FT-SE All share	1720.75	(+0.91)
Nickel	18220.41	(+75.33)
New York	4739.55	(-0.72)
Dow Jones	580.24	(-1.23)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	106 1/8%	(105 3/4%)
Yield	6.42%	(6.44%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	105 1/8%	(105 1/8%)
future (Dec)		

STERLING

New York	1.5845	(1.5837)
London		
\$	1.5847	(1.5843)
DM	2.2555	(2.2550)
FF	7.2290	(7.2490)
Sfr	1.5153	(1.5225)
Yen	152.91	(153.42)
£ Index	65.0	(65.2)

DOLLAR

London	1.4280	(1.4356)
DM	4.9485	(4.9700)
Sfr	1.1458	(1.1545)
Yen	100.20	(101.02)
£ Index	62.5	(63.0)

Tokyo close Yen 100.44

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$15.58	(\$15.50)
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GOLD

London close	\$383.55	(\$382.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

RPR lifts bid for Fisons as raid triggers a complaint

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

FISONS yesterday slipped a step closer to losing its battle for independence after Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Franco-US company mounting a hostile bid for the bested UK drug group, lifted its offer and launched a raid on the market.

RPR raised its offer for Fisons from 240p a share to 265p which values Fisons at £1.83 billion. The increase exceeded expectations that RPR would offer 260p, and that would be sufficient to deliver a knock-out blow.

RPR scooped up 17 per cent of Fisons's shares in a raid which triggered a complaint to

the Stock Exchange by SBC Warburg, which is acting on behalf of the bid target, over double dealing. Three per cent of the shares had been double counted, it said, by Moore Govett, with those morning trades being struck off by the afternoon. Despite Warburg's complaints, the double counting is considered by observers as an esoteric argument as the public had not been misled and the trades had been corrected. Double dealing will often occur in cross-agency trades.

RPR, the US subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc, the French pharmaceutical giant, will move today to pick up the 13 per cent it needs, under Take-over Panel deadlines, to carry on targeting the stock. In heavy trading yesterday RPR bought nearly 115 million shares.

The revised sum, which is a qualified final offer with RPR retaining the right to hoist the bid again if it is in competition with a now unlikely white knight, represents an improvement of £173 million on its original offer. It is a premium of 37 per cent over the closing price for Fisons on August 17, the day before the bid was launched. Fisons shares closed at 263 1/2p, up 4 1/2p on the day.

Fisons rejected the new offer shortly after it was made. Robert Cawthron, the chairman of RPR who yesterday afternoon was about to begin a round of lobbying institutional shareholders, said that shareholders were already voting with their feet. Fisons is only worth 265p with the synergies that we can offer. Without those it has very little value.

The offer document from the company declared that Fisons was bereft of new products and incapable of meaningful growth.

A spokesman for Fisons said that the document "read like a Rupert Bear annual" and that "bankrupt arguments and a stalled raid had altered nothing." The company maintained that the revised offer undervalued Fisons.

PowerGen bid with Littlechild

THE Director-General of Offer, is preparing his advice to the Office of Fair Trading on whether or not PowerGen's £2 billion bid for Midlands Electricity should be referred to the Monopolies Commission. PowerGen's response to Stephen Littlechild's consultation paper is understood to have been delivered to OFT on Wednesday (Melvyn Marcus writes).

Offer is expected to take up to two weeks to submit its advice to the OFT, which received PowerGen's submission last week.

PowerGen's submission to John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, is expected to argue that the proposed amalgam with Midlands will still leave the privatised industry with competition in generation and supply; an independent National Grid; and full access to the Rec's distribution networks. PowerGen is also expected to emphasise that the company's acquisition of a Rec will not affect Offer's ability to regulate.

PowerGen has argued that the electricity "pool" serves to separate generation from supply.

Pennington, page 27



Fighting his corner: Alan Sugar yesterday after Amstrad announced a return to profits

Amstrad in the black and looking for an acquisition

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

AMSTRAD, Alan Sugar's consumer electronics group, plans a significant acquisition after moving back into the black. It reported £31 million profits yesterday, after losses that have clocked up to £100 million at the operating level over the past three years.

David Rogers, the chief executive to whom Mr Sugar surrendered organisational activities last year, said he was looking to buy something with a turnover of up to £200 million. Amstrad sits on £141 million net cash.

But he also said it was imperative to tackle the losses

in the company's traditional area of consumer electronics. In the year to June 30, that area lost £16 million, slicing a chunk from pre-tax profits. But rationalisation and expansion hoisted the company well clear of the previous year's £19.9 million losses.

Another division which faces a shake-up is the innovations facility in consumer electronics. Although this development centre gave birth to the recently launched Ultra Face Care System, the first electronic home beauty product, it has produced little else. Mr Rogers said many of the

development engineers may be redeployed in subsidiaries. Also under the spotlight is Danacell, the Danish mobile phone company bought in 1993. The subsidiary, which did not make a profit contribution in the year, suffered a four-month delay in the launch of its new phones. Amstrad Direct, the division that sells PCs direct, suffered disappointing start-up costs.

The final dividend payment, due on December 1, is held at 1.5p, making a 2.5p (unchanged) for the year.

Pennington, page 27

Housebuilding still weak

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ACTIVITY in the housebuilding sector remains in the doldrums and weaker than last year, according to new figures from the Department of the Environment.

The number of dwellings started in August totalled 14,000, down on 16,300 in August last year. Completions, at 14,500, were also lower — 15,800 at the same stage in 1994.

These figures tend to confirm the troubled picture that emerged from several of Brit-

ain's leading housebuilders last week who reported poor results and suggests that, despite this week's news of a rise in mortgage commitments in August, the housebuilding market is far from recovery.

Taking the last three months, 45,400 dwellings were started, 15 per cent down on the same period last year. Completions, however, totalled 46,800, which was up 2 per cent from a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted figures showed that housing starts in

the three months to August were 3 per cent lower than in the previous three months and total completions were down 1 per cent.

Separate figures published in America also pointed to weakness in the housing market. New housing completions fell 7.9 per cent in August to the lowest level since September 1993, according to the Commerce Department. The completions rate in August was 9 per cent below the same month last year.

Manweb

Shareholder information update

Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

To hear your Board's advice
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Fight over Knight Williams hot up

By Robert Miller

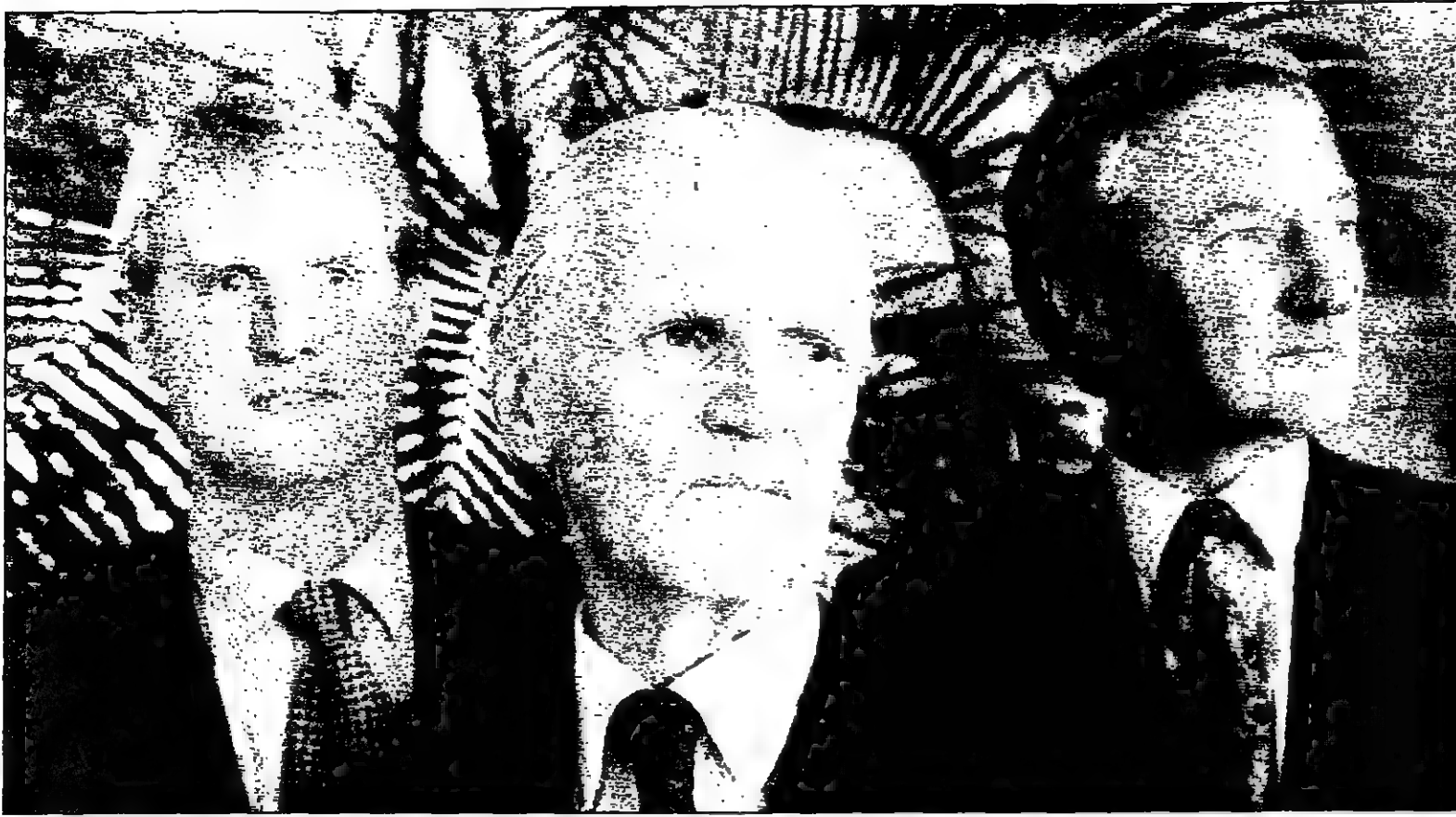
LAWYERS and forensic accountants fighting to secure millions of pounds of compensation on behalf of hundreds of elderly investors yesterday signalled an all-out offensive against City regulators. MPs on all sides of the House will also be enlisted to bring extra pressure to bear for a speedy resolution to the Knight Williams affair.

Neil Micklethwaite of Dibb Lupton Broomhead, the law firm acting on behalf of the Knight Williams Action Group led by Kenneth Jordan, on a pro bono basis, said: "It is not right that elderly investors should be chasing around individually to secure their compensation. Pressure needs to be brought to bear. We are now looking to identify some of the regulatory failures that have occurred over the past two years and in particular the role of Fimora, the company's former regulator, and the Securities and Investments Board (SIB)."

Knight Williams, the former retirement income specialist, last year agreed to a SIB-brokered conciliation service. When the SIB informed KW in July that the compensation bill was likely to top £3 million, the company went into liquidation. This summer KW received £15 million from Slinger & Friedlander, the merchant bank that bought £400 million of Knight Williams funds. The money was paid to Knight Williams Portfolio Management.

Neil Cooper, of Robson Rhodes, the accountancy firm also working on a pro bono basis, said: "The improvements in the regulatory system have come too late for Knight Williams investors. We will be helping them to put forward their claims in a way most likely to succeed."

Dibb may now launch a "class" action, for which investors could qualify for legal aid, to direct the SIB to hand over its case paper work.



Neil Micklethwaite, left, Kenneth Jordan, leader of the Knight Williams Action Group and Neil Cooper

New car incentives fail to tempt private buyers

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SALES of new cars are up so far this year — but only just, according to figures issued yesterday by the motor industry.

Registrations for the first nine months were 1,594,166 compared with 1,588,366 in the first three-quarters of 1994, a rise of just 0.37 per cent. However, statistics from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed registrations in September falling 3.4 per cent.

Executives comforted themselves by saying that the figures could have been worse. Ernie Thompson, the society's chief executive, said: "Despite suggestions that the August total had been distorted by pulling registrations forward,

September looks better than might be expected."

But carmakers must now be wondering when they will get a return for the tens of millions of pounds they are spending on advertising, discounts and free equipment in an apparently vain attempt to stimulate a moribund market.

The problem for the industry has been the same all year: finding the missing private buyers. Fleet sales have been buoyant, with firms replacing ageing company cars and vans, encouraged by heavy discounting by manufacturers anxious to keep their production lines moving.

But private buyers, worried by negative equity and the economy, have stayed away in

increasing numbers, accounting for only about half of sales this year, in spite of lucrative offers from carmakers, ranging from price cuts to free insurance.

Mr Thompson said: "There is evidence of some renewed interest in the private sector but this is offset by a decline in the fleet market. The year-to-date total, however, demonstrates that there is little growth in the market overall and this continues to worry both manufacturers and retailers."

There were further worrying signs for the industry with the number of imports creeping up again last month. Almost six in ten of the 140,069 cars registered in September

came from abroad, boosted by the success of models such as the Ford Mondeo, which was second in the sales league table in September and third throughout the year. Although regarded as British, the car is made at Genk in Belgium. Other foreign-made models in the September top ten included the Vauxhall Corsa and Peugeot 106.

The top ten best-selling cars from January to September: 1 Ford Escort (227,344 sold); 2 Ford Fiesta (105,258); 3 Ford Mondeo (100,838); 4 Vauxhall Astra (82,324); 5 Vauxhall Cavalier (67,840); 6 Vauxhall Corsa (58,441); 7 Rover 200 (54,762); 8 Peugeot 306 (47,019); 9 Renault Clio (44,432); and 10 Peugeot 106 (39,383).

Five on list for Rail rolling stock sale

By Jonathan Pryor, Transport Correspondent

A SHORTLIST of three management buyout teams and at least two outside bidders has been drawn up by the Government for the £1.5 billion auction of British Rail's stock of 12,000 locomotives and coaches.

The sale of the trains, ownership of which has been divided between three leasing companies (Roscos), is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Only two outside bidders, GE Capital and a consortium led by Babcock & Brown and Nomura, the Japanese bank, are believed to have made the shortlist, according to this month's edition of *Rail Privatisation News*.

Up to 40 organisations are thought to have originally expressed interest in the three Roscos — Angel Train Contracts, Eversholt Leasing and Porterbrook.

This was whittled down to about ten serious bidders, and a shortlist was drawn up after several serious bids pitched well below the asking price were rejected.

A spokesman for Hambros Bank refused to comment on the number of bidders but City sources involved in the sale said that the shortlist had been pruned because of the complexity of the bidding process.

One source said: "You have to be sensible about the number of bidders at the final stage. You have to be convinced they are well capitalised and highly qualified to run the companies when they get to the final stage."

A Department of Transport spokesman said the sale remained on course for completion by the end of the year. "We received final bids on Friday on time and we are now conducting a detailed evaluation of them."

Daiwa loss 'came through futures'

From Richard Thomson in New York

AS PRESSURE mounts on senior executives of Daiwa Bank in Japan to resign, it has emerged that the \$1.1 billion trading losses may have been substantially incurred in the futures market.

The bank claimed last week that the loss had been sustained in the US treasury bond cash market, in contrast to losses suffered by Nick Leeson and Barings Bank in derivatives. But Wall Street traders from other banks that dealt with Daiwa say Toshitaka Iguchi, the dealer responsible for the shortfall, was also a substantial player in treasury bond futures. The *New York Times* quotes one Lehman Brothers bond trader as saying that Mr Iguchi was one of

the bank's best customers in the futures market.

Meanwhile, US banking regulators are furious that Daiwa not only took seven weeks to report the losses but also used the interval to raise substantial new funds in the money markets. After Mr Iguchi's confession to his superiors, the bank issued \$0 billion yen (£34 million) of preferred stock in Japan and raised more than \$50 million on international bond markets before reporting its plight to the regulatory authorities.

The regulators are likely to seek sweeping changes within Daiwa before lifting the order restraining its New York operation from conducting all but a minimal level of business.

Mr Lyons said research in Sweden and America showed that 10,000 people working over 48 hours a week will die each year from coronary heart disease.

The guide, *Mental Health and Stress*

in the Workplace. A guide for Employers, was commissioned by the Health Department and based on research by Cary Cooper, a leading expert in stress and Sue Cartwright, both based at Manchester School of Management.

A health spokesman said: "This review was commissioned by the department as a contribution to its work in developing health of the nation guidance on mental health in the workplace." Research published last year concluded there was no evidence to link long working hours with increased threat of coronary heart disease, said the department.

Professor Cooper said: "Obviously it struck a nerve somewhere but it was not a government issue. It is clear that long hours do not mean good health."

Carlsberg-Tetley to shed 500 jobs

MORE than 500 jobs will be lost as a result of a wide-ranging restructuring at Carlsberg-Tetley Brewing, the joint venture between Allied Domecq and Carlsberg. Brewing and packaging will cease at Warrington by October 1996, resulting in the loss of 240 jobs, with output transferred to existing breweries at Burton and Leeds. Warrington will continue to employ more than 260 people in sales and distribution.

At the Burton brewery, up to 150 jobs will be lost as part of a plan to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Elsewhere within the company 115 jobs will be lost in marketing, sales distribution and finance operations. The redundancies follow a review to identify excess capacity and costs, reflecting a decline in beer volumes and rationalisation among competitors. The company will continue to employ about 3,800 people. Carlsberg-Tetley said these were the final steps in the reorganisation of the business.

Next sells US group

NEXT, the fashion retailer, is raising \$37.5 million through the sale of TCS Management Group, an American subsidiary that develops and sells software systems for telephone call centres, to Aspect Telecommunications Corporation. The consideration comprises \$33 million in cash and \$4.5 million by way of a three-year promissory note. Although the disposal will result in the elimination of a source of operating income, this will be offset by interest income on the sale proceeds. The disposal is expected to be completed next month.

Mexico to repay debt

MEXICO has told the US that it will repay \$700 million in loans extended to help it through its financial crisis at the beginning of this year. Lawrence Summers, US Undersecretary of International Affairs, said this was proof that Mexico's programme to restore financial stability was working. The announcement came ahead of the autumn meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank next week. The spring meeting was dominated by discussion on how the Mexican crisis could have been prevented. Mexico still owes the \$11.8 billion in aid.

European rate cuts

THE Bundesbank's policymaking council left German interest rates unchanged but there were small rate cuts in both Finland and Denmark. Bank of Finland cut its base rate to 5 per cent from 5.25 per cent, effective on November 1. Its tender rate, the chief tool of monetary policy, was lowered to 5.5 per cent from 6 per cent as the authorities said that inflation would remain moderate. The central bank of Denmark lowered its key money market rate by 10 basis points to 5.3 per cent, a move, which followed a Danish rate cut last week.

Barry Wehmiller rises

BARRY WEHMLER INTERNATIONAL, which makes equipment for the food and drinks industry, enjoyed a significant increase in activity in developing countries in the year to July 31, when group pre-tax profits rose to £7.08 million from £5.1 million. Trading conditions in the UK and North America stabilised after two years of strong growth but demand in continental Europe, which had lagged behind Britain and America, showed signs of recovery. Earnings were 10.4p a share (7.5p). The total dividend is 7.5p (6.7p), with a final 4.3p, due January 3. The shares rose 2p to 165p.

Cash society stays

THE cashless society is a long way off, according to a survey commissioned by Girobank. It found that more than a quarter of 2,000 respondents preferred to use cash rather than credit cards or cheques for purchases of £100, and more than half believed that paying cash for such purchases would give them a better deal on price. Philip Lloyd, Girobank head of marketing, said: "Although the decline of cash has been talked about for some time, there are more and more places where you can obtain it, whether from hole in the wall machines or cash back from supermarkets."

Galliford back in black

GALLIFORD, the builder, returned to profit in the year to June 30, earning £1.2 million before tax, compared with losses of £5.9 million in the previous 12 months. The company said the recovery was achieved despite a significant downturn for new housing in the second half, while the general construction market continued to be difficult. Earnings were 1.11p a share, compared with losses of 5.04p. There is a final dividend of 0.5p a share, due November 27, maintaining the total at 1p for the year. The shares rose 2p to 17p.

Union angry over rejection of working hours evidence

Government halts stress guide

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

THE Government has abandoned publication of a stress guide for employers that suggested that staff working more than 48 hours a week were twice as likely to suffer serious illness. Health officials said yesterday that they did not accept a conclusion in the guide that "working more than 48 hours per week doubles the risk of coronary heart disease".

The Health Department challenged the conclusion, claiming it was based on a paper published in the US 20 years ago. "The Department of Health believes more recent evidence which does not support the suggested link."

The white collar Manufacturing Sci-

ence and Finance Union said that 20,000 copies of the report — due to have been published in September — had been printed but not distributed.

Roger Lyons, the MSF general secretary, wrote to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, demanding publication of the guide. The union claimed the Government wanted to suppress the guide because of its opposition to the European Working Hours Directive, due to come into force next year, which recommended a maximum of 48 hours a week for most workers.

Mr Lyons said research in Sweden and America showed that 10,000 people working over 48 hours a week will die each year from coronary heart disease.

The guide, *Mental Health and Stress*

in the Workplace. A guide for Employers, was commissioned by the Health Department and based on research by Cary Cooper, a leading expert in stress and Sue Cartwright, both based at Manchester School of Management.

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Professor Cooper said: "Obviously it struck a nerve somewhere but it was not a government issue. It is clear that long hours do not mean good health."

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Cyprus Cyp	0.75	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Denmark Kr	6.58	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Finland Mk	5.25	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
France Fr	6.25	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Germany DM	2.25	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Greece Dr	385.00	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Hong Kong \$	1.25	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
India Ru	1.15	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Israel Sh	1.17	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Italy Lit	200.00	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Japan Yen	175.50	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Netherlands Gld	0.60	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
New Zealand \$	2.25	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Norway Kr	10.50	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Portugal Esc	200.00	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Spain Ptas	166.64	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
Sweden Kr	1.00	Switzerland Sfr	1.65
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□ Transforming the electricity industry □ Settlement plan faces delay □ Amstrad gamble pays off

The shrinking generation gap

BY THE end of today 110,000 private shareholders will know whether their shares in Manweb are worth the 990p they are being offered, and another 170,000 may even know the final value of their shares in Norweb.

Those shareholders, many also customers, may be elated by their windfall, outraged that their local electricity company has been snapped up by a predator or pondering the implications of paying their electricity and water bills to the same body. But their gains or losses are a sideshow, with a large chunk of the electricity industry being carved into an unrecognisable shape elsewhere.

Manweb will probably succumb to ScottishPower. Whether Norweb receives a knock-out offer from North West Water would seem to depend on the attitude of some of the latter's smaller institutional investors. The delay in a further bid, after Tuesday's increase from the Texan duo, could be down to the need to butter them up.

Any higher offer from North West, the fourth Norweb will have received, will be the end of the matter. The other bidders have signally failed to show their commitment by buying shares in the market. Their motives are unclear. The suspicion is that, with true Texan bloody-mindedness, they are determined to

make Sir Desmond Pitcher at North West over-pay and eventually regret his folly.

Rather more significant is the emergence of three or four big players elsewhere in the sector whose remit will run from the power station to the domestic socket — rather like the old and unlamented CEBG, which privatisation was meant to do away with. National Power and PowerGen are both lobbying furiously for their bids for, respectively, Southern and Midlands, to go through without regulatory hindrance. The main opposition is coming from the industry regulator, the hapless Stephen Littlechild, which on past form would seem to guarantee their success.

Eastern is already there. If it succeeds in buying National Power's unwanted capacity, it will command 12 per cent of the country's generating plant and the biggest distribution base.

All this was presaged by Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chief executive, when he gave evidence to the Select Committee on Energy this summer. The generators are pinning their hopes on their bids

being waved through on two arguments: that the generation market is so fragmented now that they should be allowed back into distribution, and that the freeing up of supply in 1998, allowing domestic customers to shop around, means they will then not have a monopoly here.

It is an argument that could find favour with the Government, given the relative lack of criticism that has greeted the bids. The next move in the electricity paper chase is expected to be a firm bid from one regional company for another. That could at last prove a bid too far for the competition authorities.

Leaks spring

at Lloyd's

THE Lloyd's building has increasingly seemed to share a menacing psychic link with the declining affairs of the 300-year-old insurance market. It may be of more than passing significance, therefore, that the edifice designed to "last a thousand years" has started leaking after nine. The serried rows of ex-

PENNINGTON



ternal pipes, whose aggressive functionality shocked those whom architects like to shock, turn out not to be functional after all. The stainless steel outside was decorative cladding for conventional insulated pipes, at least some of which are now rusting, leaking hot water and in need of replacement.

Names must hope that this unfortunate development which seems not to be covered by the building's insurance (policies) does not prove too symbolic for the Corporation's £2.8 billion global settlement plan. That plan is supposed to end litigation, cauterise the open sores of old underwriting years and consign to history five years of trouble, sleaze and incompetence that

generated £8 billion losses. But five months after the plan was presented to a generally welcoming world, it is already leaking.

By the end of this month, the deliberations of the names committee led by former Tory adviser Sir Adam Ridley were to allow estimates to be sent to names of how the £2.8 billion was to be spread among them and how much it would cost to clear away the past with premiums to Equitas, Lloyd's magic dustbin. Real figures would not be known until the spring, but affected names would, it was hoped, know enough on the costs and conditions of the plan to pass judgment on it in November.

Sir Adam now wants more time, so the October estimates are to be abandoned. That need not be bad news. Financial details of the Equitas operation are becoming available fast. A moving target is harder to hit, but reliable estimates might arrive sooner than the spring. Names have been through enough foot-dragging to be suspicious. A rise in the settlement total above £3 billion would help, if auditors and agents play ball.

Otherwise, names will note that solicitors are already looking at what legal action may be needed over those leaky pipes.

Sweet success for Sugar

SMALL investors' action groups like that formed for Knight Williams investors yesterday have a poor record of success — but one exception was the band of private shareholders who foiled Alan Sugar's bid to take his company private in 1992.

It is not in Mr Sugar's nature to be humble or apologetic, and he would not have come as far as he has if it was. There has never been a trace of an admission that his offer of, at today's prices 150p, was ungenerous or unreasonable in 1992, even if the price has come close to doubling since. Amstrad's recovery has come without help from the prevailing winds on the high street. Mr Sugar's view at the time of his 1992 offer was that times were so uncertain for Amstrad that he was doing them a favour by absorbing the risk. He has not

significantly changed that view since. Amstrad's return to the black, after huge write-offs on obsolete stock, comes after risky but eventually successful entry by acquisition into the mobile phone business and computers.

The virtues of the company's latest bold move, to sell its own computers and faxes direct to the public and cut out middlemen like Dixons, are as yet unproven.

Mr Amstrad has an odd conversational quirk, over and above the, ahem, abruptness for which he is famed. He never discusses Spurs, his other corporate love, while on the stump on behalf of Amstrad. The City, which he still loathes, suspects he is now more interested in the former than the latter, a theory bolstered by the arrival at Amstrad last summer of a chief executive to share his burden.

Short measures

ANOTHER day, another bout of insider trading, and another costly reassurance from the Stock Exchange sleuths that they are doing all they should. Boddington shares were fizzing over the top of the glass a good six hours before news of the approach went through Topic screens. Somebody knew, somebody dealt, and somebody knows who it was. But arrests are not thought to be imminent.

Boddington shares soar on bid talks

BY GEORGE STIVELL

BODDINGTON, the drinks, hotels and nursing homes group, was forced to rush out an announcement yesterday that it was in talks which may lead to a recommended bid for the company after a surge in its share price (see Pennington, this page).

The shares had started moving yesterday morning, rising 16p to 288p in early trade and reached 358p by the close, a spectacular gain of 80p on the day. Market speculation had centred on an offer of 340p a share. Sources close to Boddington were quoted by financial news agencies yesterday morning as saying they were unaware of having received any bid approach.

The announcement from Hubert Reed, the chairman, and the rest of the board, came several hours after the denial, and said the approach could lead to a bid "at substantially in excess of its current share price". A further announcement would be made in due course, shareholders were promised.

At 358p a share, Boddington is worth £435 million. The shares have traded in a narrow band between 240p and

290p for more than two years. Whitbread, the drinks group that bought Boddington's brewery in 1989, was one name mentioned by speculators. Whitbread declined to comment last night. Dealers reported heavy interest in Boddington's shares from the company's North West homeland. The group has pub, hotel and nursing home interests across the country but is based in Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

This led some dealers to speculate that the bidder might be Greenalls, the ambitious Warrington-based drinks group. Analysts, however, said that a Boddington bid would be a large mouthful for Greenalls. Boddington's two largest shareholders are Mercury Asset Management with 13.4 per cent and Britannic Assurance with 7.8 per cent.

Boddington itself failed to land Devenish, the West Country drinks group, after a bruising £128 million bid battle in 1991. Boddington ultimately took a £25 million profit on a 20 per cent stake in Devenish, which was subsequently acquired by Greenalls.



John Shannon had early overtures rebuffed as inadequate

Former Country Casuals chief set to mount a bid

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE former chairman and chief executive of Country Casuals is set to launch a takeover bid worth about £25 million for the womenswear retailer which last month reported a loss of £1.05 million for the first half.

John Shannon, who quit last September just after the company made one of several profit warnings, approached Country Casuals through Ciro Holdings, a company he controls. Country Casuals has condemned the approach as opportunistic and said the

level of the possible offer did not reflect group potential. The company, which has suffered losses particularly on its non-core brand interests of outside clothes and fashion for the younger market, has reined back some of the losses after it slipped into the red last year. Last month's interim losses showed an improvement of 30 per cent.

A value has not been put on the expected offer by Mr Shannon, who owns about 19 per cent of the equity, but it is thought by marketmakers to

be in the region of £25 million.

The company said that the last interim results reflected the substantial progress made since the profits warning made last September. It said: "The timing of the approach is opportunistic."

Mr Shannon, who is being advised in his offer by Robson Rhodes, left Country Casuals after a dispute in which his fellow directors refused to extend the length of his service agreement.

Tempus, page 28

United Gas loses case

AN ATTEMPT by United Gas to end a high-priced contract to buy gas from National Power has been stopped by the High Court (see Tiersan writes).

The company, jointly owned by Utilicorp of the US and six regional electricity companies, was ordered to pay the generator a sum understood to be £6 million.

At issue was the supply of gas through a single pipeline. The court ruled that National Power had the right to use several routes. United Gas said last night it may appeal.

US placing by MAID

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE online business information company, MAID, is raising \$70 million by way of a US share placing and securing a Nasdaq listing in New York.

The proposed issue of up to 19.55 million new shares, representing 24 per cent of the current issued share capital, is not being offered on a pro-rata basis to existing investors and, therefore, requires shareholders' approval. An extraordinary meeting will be convened on October 30.

The new shares will be placed in the form of American Depositary Shares with the price to be fixed immediately before the placing. At 248p a share, the closing price on Wednesday, the issue would raise up to \$70 million. Yesterday the shares rose 3p to close at 251p.

Funds raised will be used to exploit the market for ProFound, the company's new Windows-based online business information service.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Fisons' double-counting claim as RPR moves on Fisons

FIONS appears to be on the verge of losing the battle to remain independent after Rhône-Poulenc Rorer waded into the marketplace to buy 17 per cent of its shares.

ABN Amro Rorer Govett, the broker, picked up 114 million shares on behalf of the Franco-American pharmaceutical group, paying prices of between 265p and 265p a share. By the close of business, the Fisons share price had risen 4 1/2p with a massive 212 million shares changing hands. But it emerged last night that SBC Warburg, acting on behalf of Fisons, had lodged a complaint with the Stock Exchange, alleging that Rhône-Poulenc had double-counted a number of transactions. It said the double-counting may have involved 3 per cent of the shares bought by RPR, making the true figure held nearer 15 per cent.

Earlier in the day, RPR had raised its offer by 25p to 265p, valuing Fisons at £1.1 billion. The offer was immediately rejected by Fisons, up 4 1/2p at 263p, but there was no shortage of sellers among the institutions which have seen the shares trade as low as 103p in the past year.

Many of them feel that Stuart Wallis has done a marvelous job of reviving the group's fortunes since taking over as chief executive, but it will be some time before they see the Fisons price at this level again.

Meanwhile, Medeva stood out with a rise of 8 1/2p to 274 1/2p, hoping to benefit from the institutions' eagerness to plough back in the market, place the profits accrued from Fisons.

This latest flurry of bid activity again helped to keep the bot bolting in the rest of the equity market although share prices were unable to hold onto their early gains. The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 11 points at one stage, eventually closed 0.3 up at 3,544.4. The total number of shares traded soared to more than one billion with the figure swollen by the activity in Fisons and other special situations, including Hanson, 4p lighter at 200p (17.68 million shares) and Dragoon, unchanged at 14 1/2p (69 million shares and 18.4 million warrants).

Elsewhere on the takeover front, Boddington, the pub and hotel chain, confounded the City by confirming that it was in bid talks which could

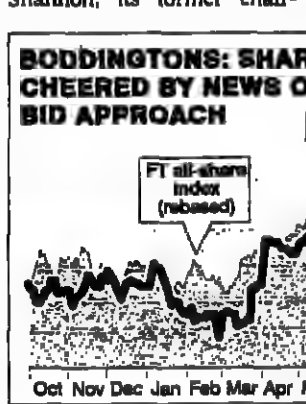


Boddington confirmed yesterday that it was in bid talks

lead to a recommended offer at premium "substantially in excess" of the ruling market price. Confirmation of the approach sent the Boddington share price soaring 86p to 353p, with both Greenalls and Whitbread, which already owns Boddington brewing interests, seen as the most likely suitors. At these levels, Boddington

enjoys a price tag of £437 million. Earlier in the day, brokers had been pouring scorn on claims that the group was about to be the subject of a bid. Whitbread fell 7p to 629p and Greenalls lost 10p at 489 1/2p.

Country Casuals, the women's clothes group, has received a bid approach from a company controlled by John Shannon, its former chairman. The bid, valued at £1.1 billion, is for 100 per cent of the company. Shannon, who has been in the company since 1988, is believed to be the driving force behind the bid.



man. He resigned in September last year, just two days after the company issued a profits warning. Country Casuals described the bid as opportunistic and said the potential offer did not reflect its potential. Substantial progress had been made since Shannon's resignation and this had been backed up by first-half trading news. Country Casuals gained 15p to 130p.

Great Universal Stores dropped 10p to 593p after a profits downgrade by James Capel, the broker, but Storehouse cheered the market with news of increased sales. The shares responded with a rise of 4p to 304p.

Enterprise Oil shed 10p at 347p after BZW reduced its numbers. British Steel also came under the hammer, losing 54p at 175 1/2p after a number of meetings with brokers recently. SBC Warburg, the broker, led the sellers yesterday as almost 14 million shares were traded. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has also decided to downgrade its recommendation for British Steel from a "buy" to a "hold".

Allied Domecq fell 6p to 526p after announcing that the reorganisation of its Carlsberg-Tetley brewing joint venture with Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, was likely to cost £50 million. The measures will include the closure of the Warrington brewery with the loss of 240 jobs and the loss of 150 jobs at its Burton Brewery by 1998. Lehman Brothers, the broker, added to Allied-Domecq's misery by telling clients to sell the shares down to 450p.

News of restructuring charges totalling £500,000 sent shares of Neotronics Technology sliding 6p to 55p. The group said it had been forced to restructure its management and research and development operations because of difficult trading conditions in the gas detection sector.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, celebrated a return to the black with a rise of 12 1/2p to 268 1/2p. Pre-tax profits last year came in at £3.1 million compared with a deficit last time of almost £20 million. Sales were also sharply higher. The contribution from Vigor, a recent acquisition, was better than expected and losses on the consumer electronics side were greatly reduced. The dividend was maintained at 2.5p.

GILT-EDGED: Prices enjoyed a steady opening and held up well for most of the day against attempts to drive the market lower again. But trading generally remained dull with few institutional investors willing to open fresh positions. In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished 1/16 lower at £105 1/16 as the number of contracts completed rose to 47,000. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed 1/4 to finish 97 1/4, while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at 102 1/4.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.72 at 4,739.95 at midday. Declining shares led advances by 11 to nine.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4,739.95 (-0.72)
S&P Composite 380.24 (-1.29)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18,220.41 (-75.33)
Hang Seng 9,880.04 (-51.91)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 4,624.8 (-1.24)
AO 2,082.7 (-0.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,208.62 (-4.04)

Singapore:
Straits 2,143.56 (-15.84)

Brussels:
C20 7,844.27 (-46.28)

Paris:
CAC 3,800.32 (-3.59)

Zurich:
SIX 4,971.30 (-1.18)

London:
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Merger road at BTR

BTR, the conglomerate, is in delicate merger talks. Its cash balances will swell by at least £250,000 when it finally merges the A1 registration number it inherited when it bought Dunlop with the 1A registration plate owned by Car Marks of Hull, specialists in marketing numbers plates.

Al and 1A are being offered for sale as the ultimate pair in road numbers, and the asking price is £380,000, or near offer, plus VAT.

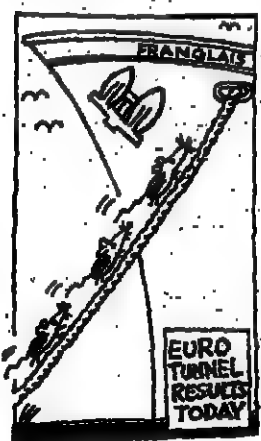
BTR has been the owner of the number for around 15 years and now the money should be put to good use.

Royal role

WHAT'S up at Royal? As speculation about which life offices are trying to acquire their smaller brethren reaches fever pitch, Royal Insurance has made an intriguing new appointment. After the departure in August of Mike Dowdy, its finance director, Royal has finally found a replacement. Step forward Paul Spencer, 45, who will play an important role in the future development of the group. He arrives fresh from nine years as associate director and treasurer of Hanson, the Anglo-American takeover specialist.

City dazzlers

THE London International Circus Festival has been dazzling City whizz-kids. On Wednesday night dealers at the First National Bank of Boston found they could not see their screens to deal when the lights at the Big Top at nearby West India Quay were turned on. The circus, which has acrobats, clowns, jugglers and trapeze artists from all over the world, was asked to turn down its lights so that trading could continue. The circus folk obliged. After the spotlights were adjusted, the red and blue of the bank's dealing screens became visible once again.



Arm saves arm

JULIAN Ogilvie Thompson, the urbane shootin' and fishin' chairman of De Beers, certainly knows his priorities. JOT, as he is known, snatched his left wrist in a shooting accident in the summer, and now rests it on a cushion while working at the office. How did you break it? one well-wisher inquired. "I stumbled while on a shoot, but managed to save a very expensive shotgun. The arm was sacrificed," JOT said.

Green fingers

SOME 25 per cent of the population is allergic to jewellery containing nickel and so the Sheffield Assay Office has stolen a lead on London by introducing a nickel-free mark. At the launch yesterday Ashley Carson, the Assay Master, presented certificates to Joden International of Brighton, the first manufacturer, and Boots, first retailer, to secure the mark. The Sheffield Assay Office, founded in 1773, hopes that the costume jewellery trade will now have no excuse to not offer high quality rings, which do not turn fingers green.

COLIN CAMPBELL

BT takes a calculated stake in Labour's election prospects

Hidden warmth of cold fish hooked by a gaffe



Vallance: chairman's gravitas

NOT LONG after Sir Iain Vallance was appointed BT chairman, he threw open his home in Dulwich, southeast London, for a "meet the family" profile (Jon Ashworth writes). It could have come straight out of *Hello!* Sir Iain pouncing away on the piano, with wife and children looking on. Sir Iain in the kitchen, handing round the tea. "He reminded me of a matinee hero from silent film days," wrote the author, "6ft 3in, with slightly greying hair swept back in an understated quiff. He is confident, composed and charming, just the sort of chap to rescue a young damsel tied to the railway lines."

Silent movies were not exactly

what came to mind this February, when emotions were running high over the long hours worked by junior doctors. Sir Iain, attempting to justify his £633,000 salary package (since reduced), told investigating MPs that he worked 70 hours a week, and said: "I would quite like a job as a junior doctor. It might be relaxing."

The gaffe was all the more remarkable coming from the lips of someone renowned for never putting a foot wrong. "He shows no emotion," says one observer. "He is diffident, even dull, and thinks very carefully before he speaks." Others describe him as a cold fish.

Sir Iain was born in Perthshire in

1943, an only child. His father ran the Post Office for Scotland and Sir Iain had a comfortable childhood. He read English at Brasenose College, Oxford, and was keen to break into television journalism in America, before the Vietnam draft made him think again. He joined the Post Office in 1966, and became a director of British Telecom when it was spun off in 1981. He took over as chairman in 1987, and was knighted in the 1994 New Year's Honours. His wife Liz is an academic who has recently written a book on business ethics.

It is hard to warm to Sir Iain, yet his wife once declared: "He's not at all pompous and lacks the desire to

impress. One newspaper article described him as having occasional flashes of personal warmth, which had them [the children] in stitches. For weeks afterwards, they would pass him on the stair and say 'give us an occasional flash then'."

Sir Iain joined the Post Office in the same week as Bill Cockburn, now chief executive. He said: "Iain had the great financial and analytical skills. I was the general manager. Don't be misled by the appearance. There is a good humour there. He comes over with his chairman's gravitas, but he had it when he was a junior manager. He was always certain he was going to be chairman."

Hi-tech line for every home

BT believes that Tony Blair's dream of bringing the information superhighway to every public building, would also bring the technology to all of the nation's 20 million homes (Nick Nuttall writes).

The company is reluctant to put a cost and a timescale on bringing so-called broadband services to every inch of Britain. But privately engineers estimate the cost at £15 billion and believe it could be done in five to ten years.

Technically the task presents few difficulties. Over recent years BT has made 85 per cent of its exchanges digital. Its main trunk network is now almost entirely linked by fibre optics — the high-tech cable needed to deliver computer services such as the Internet, a bewildering array of telephony products and entertainment packages like video-on-demand and films.

Connections run from this trunk network into thousands of businesses. Around 100 universities and colleges are plugged in through an education network called Super-Jenet. BT's main task would be to take this skeleton, snaking in underground ducts across the country, and extend it to the millions of other buildings, including libraries, hospitals, schools and homes.

Most homes and many public institutions are still served by copper wires, which have limited capacity. But BT said yesterday that replacing these with fibre would cause few disruptions to transport or other services, because the infrastructure of ducts was already in place.

The benefit to BT is that in return the company gets access to millions of potential new customers for entertainment services which, under existing licences designed to protect the cable companies, it is not allowed to serve.

Writing the 20 million or so homes the company serves would go hand in hand with Mr Blair's dream of linking public institutions. Currently BT has no incentive to put fibre into homes because all that most people want is to make telephone calls and possibly transmit faxes.

However, there are a vast number of services, including multimedia for libraries and telemedicine for hospitals, that could boost revenues and might tempt BT to install fibre optic cables without a change in government licences. BT also replaces old copper cables with fibre optic as a matter of course. But one official said without a change in the licence allowing BT to beam entertainment into households, replacement would be so slow that most homes would remain copper-wired well into the future.

Unplugged — the party line that switched allegiance

Bizarre, hardly Conservative Party chairman Lord Tebbit, sitting in a TV studio on the balcony of the Labour party conference yesterday, attacking the Government and backing Labour's information superhighway deal with BT.

Tony Blair declared that the Government had shot itself in the foot after Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, claimed that Labour had no agreement with BT — only to find Lord Tebbit, the Conservative minister who privatised it and who now sits on its board as a director, confirming plainly that what Mr Blair said in his conference speech this week about the deal with BT was "just a matter of fact".

The day started with Mr

A rift with the Government made a Labour pact easier, says Philip Bassett

Lang's attempts to deride the deal and ended with BT chairman Sir Iain Vallance arriving in Brighton last night for talks, dinner and late-night drinks with Mr Blair and his team.

While business and politics can make uneasy bedfellows, BT's move is a clear indication of the growing expectations among business leaders that Labour will win the next general election.

Mr Blair's announcement of

a deal with BT was clearly political dynamite, with its implication that Labour will beat the Conservatives. The telecommunications giant would be allowed by a future Labour government to compete in the broadband market and provide entertainment and other services, including TV and film, in return for free link-ups to its new upgraded network for every school, college, library and hospital in the country.

BT was prepared for political flak from the Conservatives, and senior BT managers were largely unperturbed by Mr Lang's claim that there was and could be no such deal. "We know what we have agreed, and so does the DTI," said a senior BT figure yesterday. "Of course there isn't a contract. There can't be a contract because Labour is not, as an opposition party, in a position to agree one. But there is an understanding, an agreement. There is a difference between a contract and a deal — and Mr Lang knows that," the BT official added.

Semantics apart, Labour was delighted with the astonishing intervention by Lord Tebbit, who was simply supporting something that senior BT management had worked on for some time.

The bad blood between BT and the Government over broadband networks stems back to the Government's decision in its 1991 telecommunications White Paper about the provision of entertainment services. Having urged cable companies to enter the market, ministers felt they had to stick by them and said the decision would not be reviewed until 2001.

BT lobbied hard against this and was delighted when the all-party Commons trade and industry select committee, which has a Tory majority, recommended last year that the Government should reverse its decision and give BT access to the market.

In November, however, the Government rejected the committee's recommendations. In



Groundwork for Britain's next technological leap forward is being laid today

reply, Mr Blair asked Chris Smith, Shadow Heritage Secretary, to convene a working party on broadband technology.

BT, along with Mercury and the cable companies, held talks with the working group and in July produced its own report, *Communicating Britain's Future*. Detailed talks ensued on Labour's proposals to end the uncertainty for BT and other telephony providers. Alan Rudge, BT's deputy managing director, and John Butler, its director of regulatory

affairs, were closely involved in the talks with Mr Smith, his deputy Graham Allen, and Labour officials.

The talks were finalised last week in a faxed exchange of letters between Mr Rudge and Jonathan Powell, the deputy Whitehall operator who now heads Mr Blair's private office.

Though there were some caveats in terms of timing, the letter made clear that BT in principle would be prepared to provide free connections for public institutions concurrent-

ly with developing a new national network to carry broadband services.

Hours before Mr Blair gave his speech, the relevant section was faxed to BT which confirmed that it accurately reflected the deal.

The outcome is that BT gains access to a key market: Labour gets the kudos of a deal with business and the Government gets a bloody nose — with the biggest punch landed by its own former party chairman and the toughest Tory of all.

Putting the heat on Lloyd's

Alfred Doll-Steinberg insists names can force an inquiry

Last month Lloyd's announced that it saw no "immediate need" for an independent inquiry into whether asbestos liabilities were concealed from names in the early 1980s. The belated creation of reserves against those liabilities caused the bulk of the £8 billion losses Lloyd's has declared in the past four years.

It is believed by many in the Lloyd's community that the hierarchy must have known at least since 1982 that massive reserves had to be created against Lloyd's looming asbestos liabilities.

Yet far from alerting its general membership, Lloyd's embarked on a vigorous drive to increase capacity. New names were recruited and existing names were persuaded to increase their underwriting. As a result, in the five years from 1983, Lloyd's capacity doubled to £14 billion — a growth rate of 15 per cent per annum compared with a sedate 3 per cent for many years previously. Yet the rate of growth of Lloyd's income remained unchanged at 3 per cent per annum. It is thus hard to argue with the conviction of many names that they were recruited to provide an additional cushion for the Lloyd's professionals when the day of reckoning came.

Lloyd's decision that there should be no independent inquiry relies on an opinion by Freshfields, Lloyd's solicitors. Lloyd's had instructed Freshfields to look at a submission on the subject made by John Donner, an aggrieved name, and, according to Lloyd's, Freshfields had



Sir David Walker, who led an independent inquiry

found that Mr Donner "had failed to produce any material to support" his allegations. Lloyd's will not circulate the Freshfields report.

The most remarkable aspect of this affair has been the lack of any public reaction from aggrieved names' representatives. But then, not only do some of the best-funded action groups seem to have metamorphosed into adjuncts of the Lloyd's structure, (rather like the members' agents, also originally created as protectors of the names' interests), most of the groups' work now tends to be done for them by lawyers whose focus is litigation.

While litigation is unavoidable to resolve some disputes, other problems do have to be tackled more directly.

Contrast the current situation with one four years ago when the complaints by the LMX spiral losers about professional malpractice were being blandly dismissed by Lloyd's because those losers also "had failed to produce any material to support" their allegations.

In late 1991, the Gooda Walker Action Group, the largest group of LMX losers, reacted vigorously against this attempt to sweep an

inconvenient scandal under the carpet. The resulting "blizzard of unfavourable publicity against Lloyd's", as one newspaper described it, culminated in a meeting on February 13, 1992, between a delegation of MPs, most notably Paul Marland, accompanied by myself — then chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group — and John Redwood, then the minister responsible for the City. Mr Redwood acted decisively. Within ten days, Lloyd's had been "persuaded" to appoint Sir David Walker to conduct an independent inquiry. Sir David "produced the material to support" the allegations and his report became the base from which the Feltrim names constructed the cases to win their enormous damages last year.

If aggrieved names can no longer look to their own action group leaders to pursue their grievances vigorously, where can they turn? They might consider lobbying their MP. Earlier this year, the House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee summoned the Lloyd's top brass for some harsh questioning. Soon afterwards, Lloyd's rushed out a new settlement of £2.8 billion, as opposed to its previous "final" offer of £900 million.

If the committee were to summon the Lloyd's brass again, Lloyd's might find an "immediate need" for an independent inquiry after all.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg is co-founder of the Gooda Walker Action Group and was its first chairman.

CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

EARNINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Audited results for the year to 30th June 1995

(All funds expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars except for the common share data)

	1994/95 (C\$000)	1993/94 (C\$000)
Sales	C\$159,912	C\$118,367
Earnings from Operations	9,505	6,953
Less: Minority Interest	434	448
	8,071	6,505
Investment Income	8,129	7,221
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	13,478	14,804
Share in net earnings of affiliated companies	2,489	538
Foreign Currency Gains	844	3,317
Earnings before taxation	34,711	32,385
Taxation	2,895	3,993
Net Earnings	C\$31,816	C\$28,402
Earnings per Common Share	C\$1.81	C\$1.62

The Directors today have declared a regular dividend on the 17,578,125 Common Shares N.P.V. payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 17th November 1995 at the rate of 65 cents (Canadian) per share. The comparative figure for 1994 was 62 cents per share. The payment date for this dividend is 8th December 1995.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June 1995 together with the Notice of the Thirty Fourth Annual Meeting will be posted to Shareholders on the 20th October 1995 with the usual press announcement appearing the same day. The Thirty Fourth Annual Meeting will be held on 28th November 1995. Full details will be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

5th October 1995
Suite 1212, Brunswick Square, Germain Street,
Saint John, New Brunswick, CANADA E2L 4V1.

By Order of the Board,
M.C. Johnston, Q.C.,
Director and Secretary.

Shares all square at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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Water firm invests in Mexico

Northumbrian Water, the UK regional water supplier, is investing \$24 million in an environmental services business in Mexico.

It is acquiring a 40 per cent interest in Grupo Empresarial de Medio Ambiente (GEMA), a subsidiary of the Mexican chemical, textiles and packaging corporation, Cydsa.

GEMA was set up four years ago to provide water and waste-water services for industrial and municipal customers in Mexico. Sales in 1994 were \$80 million.

Capita deal

Capita Group, the property services company, has won a five-year contract worth up to £35 million to provide support services for an Isle of Wight hospital. Capita will set up a wholly-owned subsidiary employing all existing 180 support services staff of St Mary's Hospital, NHS Trust.

Johnston rise

Johnston Group, the contracting, construction and engineering company, increased pre-tax profits 57.3 per cent to £3.79 million in the half-year to June 30. It said markets continued to be extremely competitive. Earnings rose to 22.67p a share from 12.91p and the interim is increased to 4p (5.5p) due December 14. The shares rose 15p to 350p.

Hughes slides

TJ Hughes, the discount department stores company in the North West, is maintaining the interim at 0.8p a share. Pre-tax profits eased to £62,000 from £333,000 in the half-year to July 29. Earnings fell to 0.21p a share from 1.11p. Like-for-like sales growth was 4.5 per cent.

Axa looks to UK for its next buy

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

AXA, the French insurance group that owns Equity and Law, considers the time right to expand in Britain and is keen to acquire a mutual life insurer, according to Henri de Castries, Axa's executive vice-president.

Big UK life mutuals, such as Standard Life and Scottish Widows, would probably be too costly for Axa. France's second-biggest insurer. The most likely targets would be Scottish Amicable, Clerical Medical, Friends Provident or Scottish Providence, City analysts said.

In London to present Axa's half-year results, which showed a 24.5 per cent rise in net attributable profit to £1.30 billion, M de Castries said demutualising mutuals was something his company knew a lot about. In August, it won 97 per cent shareholder backing for the demutualisation of National Mutual, the Australian life insurer with a 30 per cent share of the Hong Kong market. Equitable, Axa's US subsidiary was also a demutualisation.

M de Castries said Axa now wanted to "develop its presence" in Britain. Equity & Law, was performing well in a declining market and now had a 2.7 per cent share of the UK life market, against 1.8 per cent in 1990. "It has good profitability and is financially very strong," he said.

He emphasised that Axa had a track record for spotting growth potential. The UK market now presented "opportunities" and the company was looking at acquisitions and mergers. "We are dedicated, but not in a hurry," he added. Asked whether his company would consider acquiring a UK life mutual in the next 18 months, M de Castries said it was very

interested. "The life insurance business has a great future in this country," he said. "And when everybody says it is problems, it is time to buy".

Although Axa is keen to expand its asset management business too, he ruled out any interest in acquiring the controlling stake in Gartmore, which the French Suez group wants to sell.

Axa forecast "significant rise" in profits for the whole of this year. The increase in net profit in the first half came in spite of unfavourable currency movements, lower realised capital gains and the deconsolidation of interests in Paribas and SCOR.

Improved underwriting results, strong reinsurance results and growth by its US operations were the main causes for the profits improvement. Premium income at Equity & Law, which outperformed the UK life sector, rose 1.8 per cent.



Home sales: Mike Handley, left, and Terry Monks, finance director, have met their pre-float profits forecast

Confident McBride beats forecast

MCBRIDE, the private label household and personal care products maker, inched past its pre-float forecasts with pre-tax profits of £38.6 million against an estimated £38.5 million for the year to June 30 (Patricia Tehan writes).

Turnover was £436.9 million against a forecast of £432 million. Mike Handley, managing director, said even though margins were de-

pressed by higher raw material prices and resistance to sales price increases, he was confident about prospects.

The shares, which started trading in July at 188p, rose 11p to close at 200p. The company reported pro-forma earnings per share of 14.7p, but is not paying a dividend on the ordinary shares following flotation until an interim next April. Private-label household products ac-

counted for 66 per cent of turnover and personal care for 20 per cent. The rest came from contract manufacturing.

Robert McBride increased its sales of textile washing products by 9 per cent. Dishwashing products pushed sales 10 per cent higher. Ypon, which makes similar products for the French and Belgian markets, held profits even after price deflation in France.

ICI expands operation in Pakistan

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

IMPERIAL Chemical Industries (ICI) is to go ahead with plans for its Pakistan subsidiary to build a \$350 million plant at Port Qasim, to produce pure terephthalic acid (PTA), an intermediate for making polyester fibre, packaging polymers and film.

The plant, the first of its kind in Pakistan, will have an annual capacity of 400,000 tonnes. It is scheduled to start production in late 1997 and should save Pakistan about \$100 million a year in foreign exchange. The British parent company will put up 61.5 per cent of the equity finance and the remainder will be raised in Pakistan. The total project investment and working capital requirements will be about \$450 million.

The Pakistan project is part of ICI's global strategy to expand PTA output to meet growing demand from customers, and for the company's internal needs, at a small number of large-scale, low-cost centres. ICI has two plants in Britain with a combined capacity of 100,000 tonnes. In Taiwan, it has one 400,000-tonnes plant and is planning a second.

Sales at Meggitt take on new look

BY MARTIN BARROW

MEGGITT, the aerospace and electronics company, forced into a restructuring by stakeholding by a potential bidder, said a divestment programme was proceeding on schedule and the group has increased order intake by 15 per cent in the first half.

Meggitt, whose restructuring coincided with stakeholding by IT Group, the acquisitive industrial holding company, yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits of £8 million for the period to the end of June. That compared with £8.6 million in the first half last year but represented an improvement over last year's second half.

In the same period the core businesses lifted operating profits 28 per cent to £10.3 million on turnover that rose 4.2 per cent to £115.1 million. Operating margins were nine

per cent. Reported earnings fell to 2.2p a share from 2.5p but underlying earnings were unchanged at 2.5p a share. The interim is maintained at 1.3p. The shares rose 5p to 80p yesterday.

Profits from the electronics division improved to £7 million from £4.64 million, while controls increased its contribution to £2.16 million from £1.27 million. But aerospace slipped to £1.8 million from £2.49 million.

Meggitt said detailed discussions were taking place with a potential buyer of its contracting and analytical businesses. Talks are also at an advanced stage with a possible buyer of Bestobell Valves, part of Meggitt's former energy division. These disposals would largely complete the restructuring of the company.



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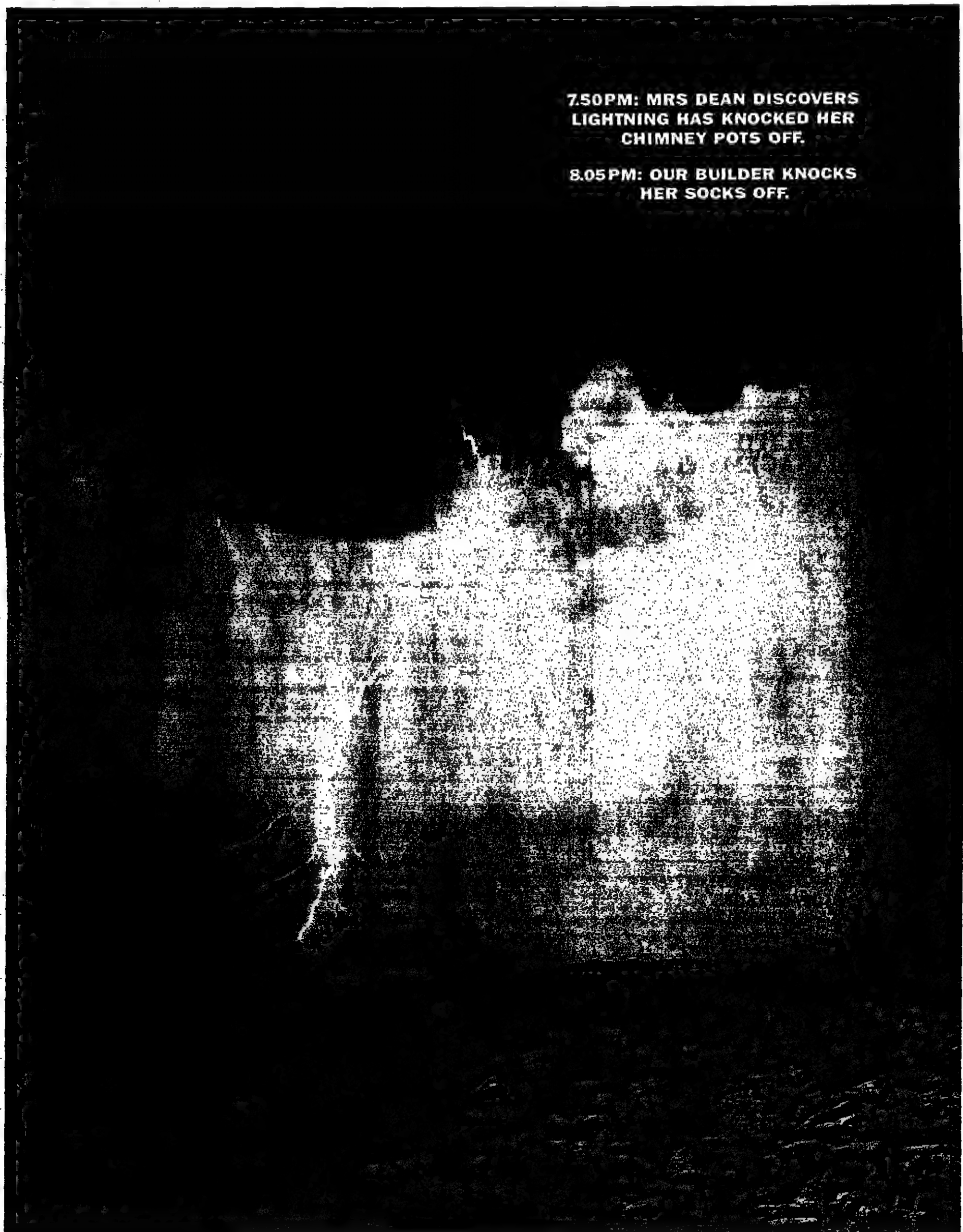
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Rodney Hobson reviews the remarkable achievements of the managers who last night were the winners in the Chartered

The man who saved Uppark

A gold medal
award for
bringing
the past
back to life

The Building Manager of the Year is Ray Carter, the man who masterminded the restoration of Uppark House, the stately home in West Sussex that was devastated by fire.

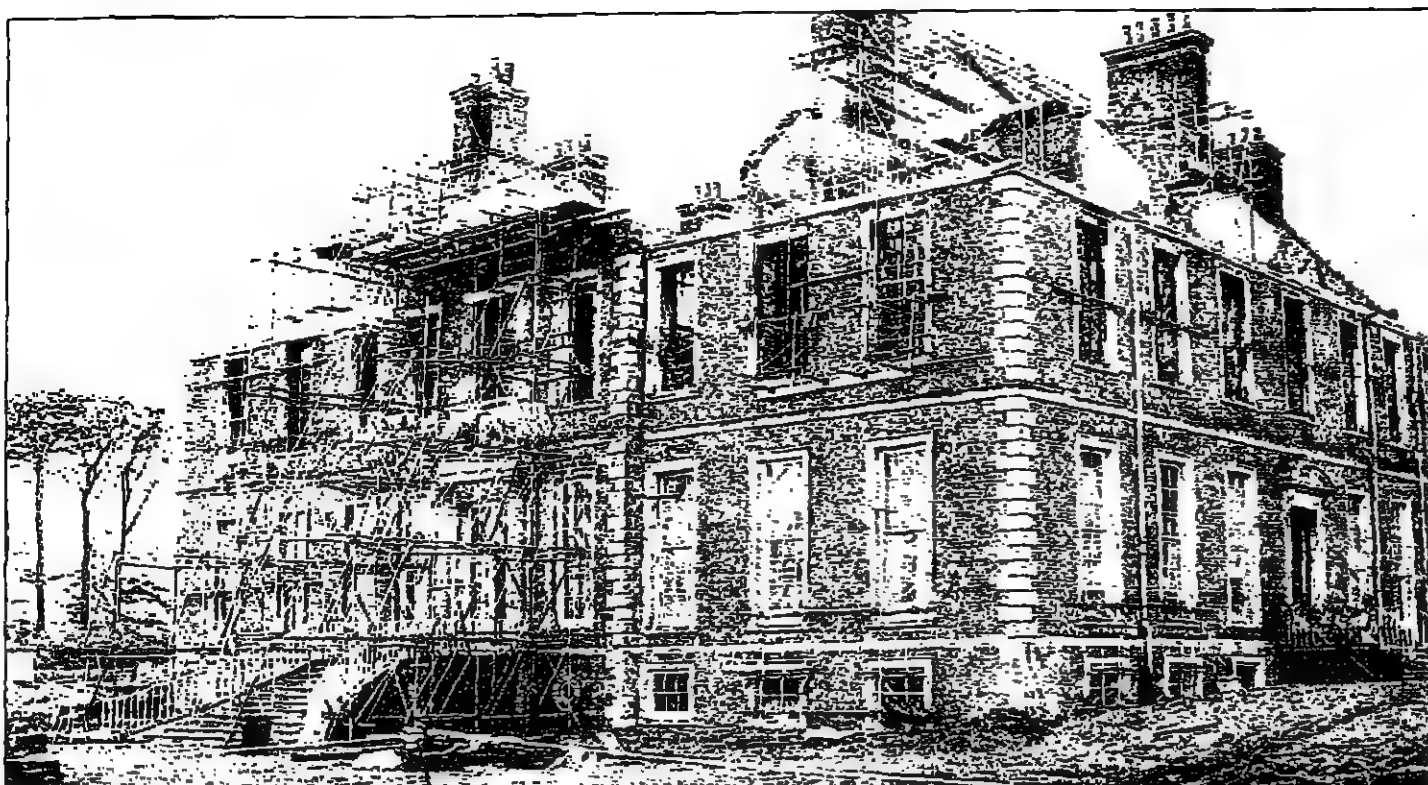
Mr Carter had never tackled a conservation project before and his hopes of seeing the job through almost vanished when the company he worked for went into liquidation half way through the restoration. The contract was won by John Lelliott, but another developer went bust and pulled Lelliott down with it, he says. "Then Bovis stepped in and took over the business. Work had come to a standstill but I managed to pull back the time lost. Not only did I complete on time but I was under budget."

Mr Carter, 45, is married with two children. He trained as a carpenter and joiner and worked his way up to become a building manager specialising in refurbishment. Since completing the Uppark project he has been working on a site at Maidenhead, Berkshire, containing an office block and a Grade II building.

It took six years to restore Uppark, a 17th-century house at South Haring owned by the National Trust. The roof and much of the first floor was destroyed in a fire in 1989 but many of the house's treasures were saved. Sections of plasterwork, the frames of mirrors and parts of chandeliers were also recovered in the hours after the fire was brought under control. Months spent sifting through rubble, which filled 3,850 dustbins, uncovered countless gems which could either be put back together or used to recreate objects.

Paintstriking demolition of damaged areas was as important as putting back together the huge jigsaw puzzle of salvaged pieces.

Sun Alliance, the insurance company, covered the £12 million cost of restoring the mansion to what has



Work goes ahead on the daunting task of restoring Uppark House, the 17th-century stately home in West Sussex devastated by fire

been described as its "shabby grandeur". Strict financial controls were applied throughout the job to satisfy the loss adjusters and the National Trust.

The restoration was the largest and most complex project of its kind undertaken by the National Trust. The work was unique and innovative and was subject to a

number of competing and conflicting pressures. The Lelliott tender had to be competitive and be good value for money yet it involved the revival of ancient crafts and techniques. Craftsmen were taught skills that had not been widely used for 200 years and in some cases they used 300-year-old tools.

Christopher Rowell, the National

Trust's southern historic buildings representative, said: "We doubted whether craftsmen would exist who could carry out some of the work, but we found them all in Britain."

The complex management task of co-ordinating the work, including arranging the supply of 30 tonnes of mature lime for the sand lime plaster in the stucco ornament-

tal ceilings and 350 tonnes of structural green oak. Detailed chemical analysis of salvaged components such as lime plaster, paint and wallpaper had to be carried out so that they could be replicated. Temperatures had to be controlled and restorations protected from the elements while work went on.

The restoration was so successful that 70,000 visitors looked round the William and Mary mansion this summer, twice as many as came before the fire.

The adjudicators say: "The fact that the work was finished on time, within budget and to the specified quality standards was, in no small part, due to the exceptional leadership and management skills of Ray Carter. With a perfect blend of humour and firmness, but above all unshakeable resolve, he ensured that the whole project was not only a success in technical and commercial terms but also that a good working relationship was established and maintained between the employer, contractor and professional teams."

● The awards are sponsored by Calor Gas and the CIOB in association with The Times and Building magazine

A champion of change in building

Michael Romans is demanding a revolution in attitudes towards women

Professor Michael Romans, the president of the Chartered Institute of Building, is no mere figurehead. He has made his mark as a campaigner for higher standards in the construction industry and for more women and members of ethnic minorities to be brought into the sector.

"I want to address issues in a positive, not a passive way," he says. "For anyone to treat women or members of minorities in an offensive manner is unacceptable."

Professor Romans rejects suggestions that there is a barrier to women because they do not have the physical strength for building work. "This is an excuse, not a reason. Other industries that have a strong emphasis on hard labour and inhospitable conditions have managed to change. It is important for all of us to begin to realise that we must address these issues in a sensible way."

Professor Romans, of Westminster University, accepts that equal opportunities is a topic guaranteed to raise the hackles of "a significant proportion" of institute members.

He said in his inaugural address: "The institute complies with equal opportunities legislation in respect of staff but the declared policies are not actively pursued. In the case of members the issue is ignored. To studiously ignore whole sectors of the population by concentrating on white Anglo-Saxon males is foolhardy and hostile to our declared mission." He says the construction industry, in particular, is behind the times.

Professor Romans believes, however, that the Construction Industry Training Board, of which he is a board member, has made great strides in taking the message into schools. There is no longer the major problem of teachers telling pupils that construction is not a job for girls.

He says: "Going into schools is

one of my favourite part-time jobs and it is very rewarding. We have really caught the teachers' imagination. You see primary school girls laying bricks and they love every minute. Young people are our future and it does not seem strange to them that girls are just as keen as boys."

As president of the institute at the start of a programme to double its membership within ten years, Professor Romans sees no reason why 20 per cent of members should not be women. That implies an increase in the number of women members from 500 to 13,000.

He is concerned that government moves have weakened consumer protection and devalued the roles of professional bodies in asserting standards of education, training and competence. The removal of controls in order to create a free market has had a price.

He said: "Even in a free market the public has a right to have protection from the cavalier and unscrupulous. It is widely accepted that the public is particularly vulnerable when it comes to procuring products and services from the construction industry."

He said there was clear evidence of a relationship between the design of buildings and the social behaviour of the occupants, adding: "Poor supervision, faulty workmanship and inadequate specialised training contributed significantly to the demise of high-rise dwellings. Faults in the infrastructure of buildings lead to the spread of highly contagious diseases. Building on contaminated ground endangers entire human settlements."

"The list is endless, yet such evidence is set aside in arguments about protecting the public when making the most significant purchase in life. To apply the same logic to medical services would be unthinkable."



Romans: campaign

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Two winning verdicts

The structure was primarily a concrete frame with an exposed structural steel frame supporting the atrium. External cladding was a combination of curtain walling and brickwork panels that were constructed on site and lifted into position.

Mr Pugh believes that a contract will be successful only if all members of the team work together. The adjudicators agreed: "Completion of the project on time and within budget is a fine example of what our industry can achieve when the designers and contractor work as one."

A high road to health

Although this was expensive, this form of construction provided a quick, watertight exterior to the building.

The bronze medal in category one was awarded to Nick Wylie for the Channel 4 Television headquarters at Horsely Road, London.

The 14,500sq-metre headquarters and national broadcasting facility, together with an 11,000sq-metre underground car park, was built by Bovis Construction over 98 weeks at a cost of £39.2 million.

There were problems with planning permission, good relations with local residents had to be maintained and there was a three-hour quiet period to be observed in the middle of the day.

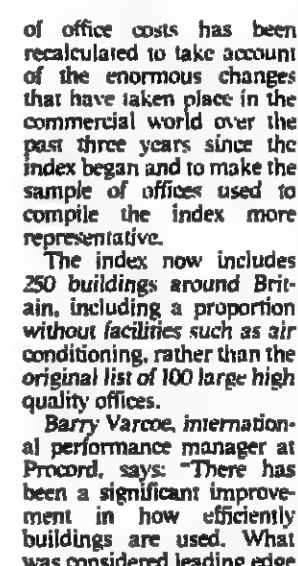
The high level of dust and noise control meant the project was voted the best site in the City of Westminster consideration, builders awarded

The only item where costs have risen for other reasons is property insurance. Because the price of food has caused a 14 jump per employee.

The index for property operations has risen in the third quarter by just £2 to an annual cost of £1,257 per employee, all the rise coming in cleaning. In support services, the increase is £26 to £1,344. The cost of food is £17. Additional costs are £17 in reprographics, £5 in stationery and £4 in catering. Electricity prices seem to have reached a plateau.

Gas prices, however, are on the increase. The oversupply. Mr Varcoe says: "All storage capacity is full and the tap is being turned down."

Seafood platforms are worth



changed the way people work.

Open-plan offices where staff have their own territory are on their way out. Mr. Varcoe says: "You want people to work together, not in rows. Open-plan offices do not promote teamwork, they are the antithesis of it."

Modern organizations have removed layers of management and gone away with status symbols such as large private offices with a plush carpet. Mr. Varcoe says: "At one time you'd made it if you had an office with a separate round table, rather than a lozenge on the end of your desk, to hold a meeting round. Allocating a desk, grade or status was seen as a mark of

www.sen.gov.sg/sen/intermed.htm

Instead of incurring the expense of bringing services such as cables and modems to the individual, staff are increasingly encouraged to go to areas set out for certain jobs.

RODNEY HOBSON

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Life and times of a site manager

PETER OLIVER made such a good job of a Boots store at Newcastle upon Tyne that the chemists insisted on having him as project manager for the refurbishment of their store in Cardiff. The Cardiff project won the Silver award for

The task included refitting the shop floor, installing auto-

mafic doors, creating an open shop front and providing security shutters. The Boots manager wanted the work carried out quickly, and with no disruption to selling operations. Mr Oliver had to convince him that with co-operation the job would be completed on time and to his satisfaction. To complete on time the manager put up notices announcing when deliveries would be delayed.

Mr Oliver says: "I could never relax. The project manager is a place spinner. You have to keep them going on site. New personnel have to be told that it is not a normal building site. The manager has to be told that you cannot make up concrete or mortar, nor saw timber anywhere you wish."

Chris Grimsbach was in charge of the conversion of an 180-year-old Methodist chapel into the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield. The former chapel had been bought by the Kirkles Theatre Trust and the conversion was a daunting challenge. The building was found to be unstable and additional work to rectify the problem added 10 weeks and £1 million to the contract. At one point a hole was knocked in the external wall to allow a crane to be driven in.

Mr Grimsbach recognised the need to minimise inconvenience to occupiers of adjoining buildings. The project was sited at the County Court so piloting and other noisy operations had to be arranged to miss court sittings.

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VISIONS OF AFRICA



TAKE

■ VISUAL ART

Head in the clouds: the Tate surveys Turner's lifetime fascination with the sky



■ MUSIC

Richard Hickox's Vaughan Williams cycle gathers pace with three contrasting symphonies

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE

Cossacks in a whirl; absurdist Icelandic drama: the London fringe is nothing if not full of variety



■ CABARET

A cultured man at the piano: Richard Rodney Bennett displays his class in Knightsbridge

Isabel Carlisle visits the Tate's exhibition of Turner's sketches and studies of the sky and weather

When the sky is the limit

The exhibition of Turner's watercolour sketches of skies that has just opened at the Tate Gallery takes us into the mind of an artist for whom light and atmospheric effects were key players in his paintings. There are very few artists for whom the sky was such an obsession or inspiration that a whole exhibition could be devoted to that single aspect of their work.

Claude in the 17th century and Tiepolo in the 18th were past masters of translucent light. Constable, in true Romantic tradition, was fascinated by skies; Turner, his contemporary, was something else altogether. We realise this at the very beginning, with a view of Fonthill Abbey of 1799: seen from across the lake, the distant building is overwhelmed by the billowing clouds. It is clear that Turner's interest in the weather and the effect of light at different times of day took over from the topography in the series of landscapes that he was commissioned to paint at that time.

Only a few of these watercolour sketches were painted out of doors; most were experiments in the studio based on ideas noted down in pencil sketches. In one of the travelling sketchbooks in the exhibition is a pencilled drawing of a rainbow annotated: "3/dark, 2/pure, light/2" — a record of tones rather than colours that in the next stage, the watercolour sketch, would be used to recapture a transient effect and not an exact reconstruction of colour.

Turner once said that he did not colour on the spot

because he could make so many more pencil sketches in the same amount of time, and he filed these sketches in such a way that he could pull them out at a later date and use them as reference material for a painting.

Turner was obsessed by transience, and more so as he grew older. In Turner's later paintings there is even a sense of becoming surrounded by the landscape as the artist attempts to capture as much

Turner's interest in light took over from the topography

as possible in one go, placing the rising moon and setting sun in neighbouring quarters of the same sky.

In his watercolour sketches Turner often applied his pigments unmixed: pure areas of lemon yellow or scarlet lake tell us more about the immediacy of the experience than the actual colours of the sky.

In two versions of the same view of the harbour at Corvo, in the Italian lakes, one has an intense lemon-yellow sky (with Turner's thumb marks in the water in the foreground) and the other is suffused in pinky yellow — an experimentation in mood that Monet would repeat in his series of paintings of haystacks and of the facade of Rouen Cathedral 60 years

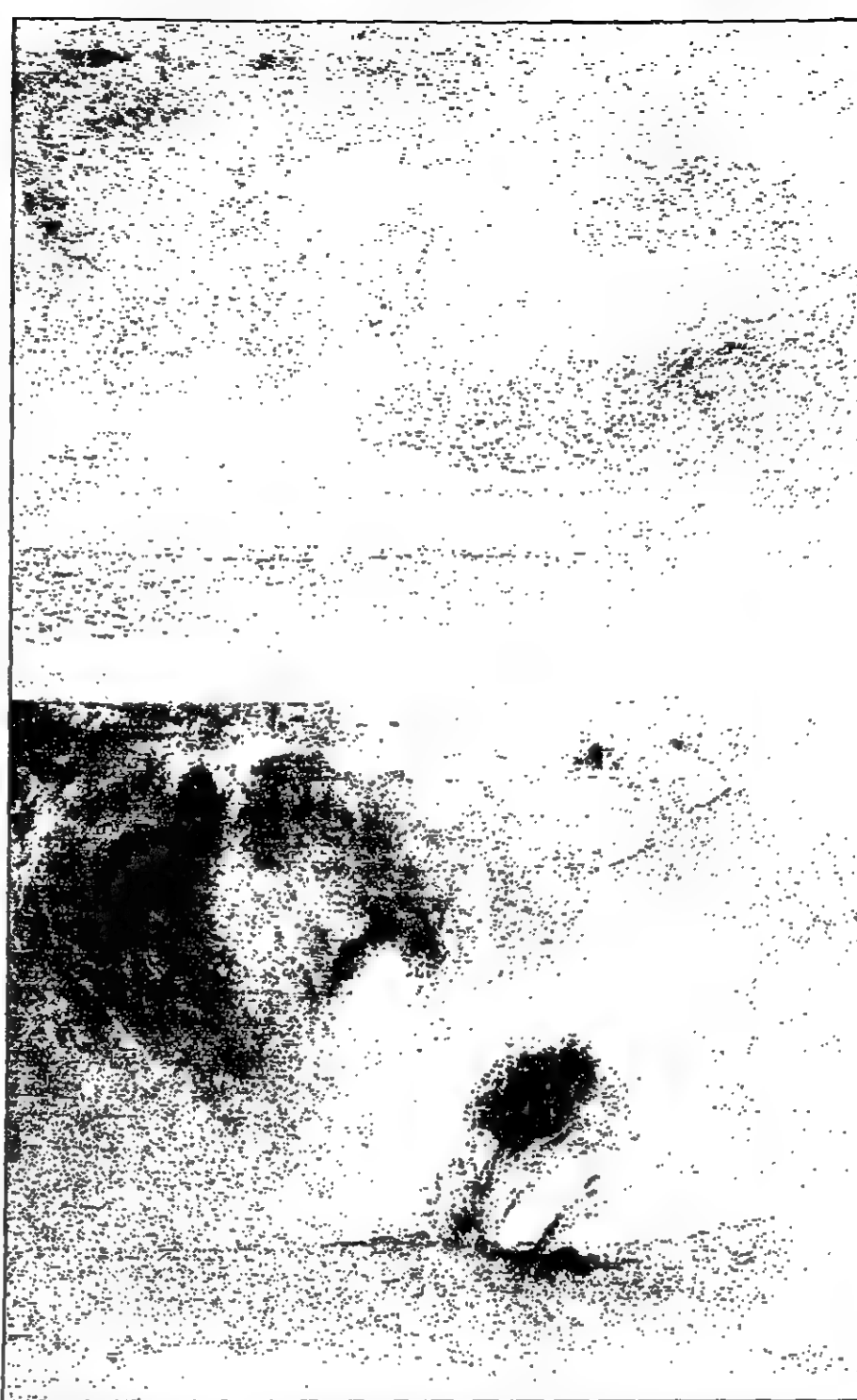
later. It is also striking to discover how similar Turner's *Tours: Sunset*, with a yellow sun sinking in a red sky, throwing a smoky trail of light forward onto the river, is to the painting by Monet, *Impression: Sunrise*, which gave its name to the Impressionist movement.

It is not impossible that Monet did see Turner's painting on a visit to London. To say that Turner's *Pink sky over grey water* should resemble a Rothko is to look at it through the lens of the late 20th century. But it is not as fanciful a connection as it seems. Both artists were mood purveyors for whom colour held the key.

Look at Turner's horizontally-banded sketch that moves from pale pink at the top to a band of orange yellow hovering over a yellowish grey sea, and then go into the Tate and look at Rothko's huge canvases for the Seagram building in New York, painted in 1958-59, which have a room of their own in the current display, and make the comparison yourself.

Do so and enjoy it as a luxury, because if the Tate's collection of modern and European art is transferred to Bankside, this is not a comparison that will be so readily available.

Sketching the Sky: Watercolours from the Turner Bequest is in the Turner exhibition rooms of the Clore Gallery at the Tate Gallery, London until February 4. Admission free. The Seagram Murals by Rothko are in Room 25 until Tuesday and then move to Room 30, reopening on October 21, to make way for the Turner Prize.



The light fantastic: Turner's *Boats at Sea/Trees in a Strong Breeze*, circa 1820-25, at the Tate — "Turner was obsessed by transience, and more so as he grew older"

The art of conversation is alive and swinging

A PERFORMANCE by Richard Rodney Bennett is all style and poise. No multi-octave virtuoso, he transforms songs into conversational set pieces, his urbane voice savouring Coward-like, every twist of the lyric, every part social observation. Like Michael Feinstein, who has just finished a superb West End run, he uncovers riches from a bottomless fund of Broadway tunes and legends.

These are, as ever, busy times for Bennett. Newly ap-

Richard Rodney Bennett
Pizza on the Park

pointed to the International Chair of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, he will be giving lectures and masterclasses at his alma mater this week while his new

Partita for Orchestra will be unveiled by the Philharmonia at the Festival Hall later in the month. On the slightly jazzier side of the street, this year also saw the CD release of his *Concerto for Stan Getz*, performed by the saxophonist John Fiebig.

At the very end of his opening set at Pizza on the Park, Bennett delved into his ample catalogue of film scores, as he scurried through a waltz from *Murder on the Orient Express*.

For a good part of the show he also had to contend with the noise and chatter of an arrogant party of yahoos who could have been mistaken for extras from another entry on his CV, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Finally losing patience, he silenced them into silence with a glorious satire stuffed full of Sloane Square chit-chat ("Annabel miscarried/just as well she didn't marry") and squarely aimed at this particular sub-set of the chattering classes.

PARIS provided another of his targets earlier, when he sank a sledge into the romanticised image of the city, home of lovers, café au lait and Existentialists, in a bravura piece by the under-rated Dave Frishberg.

Bennett cannot bring himself to be rude about his adopted home of New York. An affectionate *Autumn in New York* came gift-wrapped in a rarely heard verse, and his own composition *Let's Go and Live in the Country* evoked an almost lost world of witty cocktail parties.

CLIVE DAVIS

Spirits on spirits

FRINGE THEATRE

strong spirits. They talk nonsense. Occasionally a man in a fur hat, wielding a yellow-flagged skewer, bursts in and raves against the Jews. At other times we are visited by a caped devil who thrusts his two crutches into quivers like skeletal wings.

Theatre Kana are artists of fine timing and physical vigour. One figure, his back to us, suddenly arcs back, flashing

an inverted gargoyle face. Erofeyev's characters, tormenting the author in a soused nightmare I gather, cut strange capers, half-silly, half-scary, slamming their feet between flailing goose steps. The lunatic babble is a bemusing bore. The cast are also restricted by performing in English, their accents meaty and musical but confounding.

Still, I'd go a long way to see that Cossack whirling again, celebrating life with an accordion, a bike bell and a spin of limbs.

If *The Night* was impenetrable, *The Pigeon Banquet* at Watermans Arts Centre has me doubly stumped. The Icelandic writer Halldor Laxness links ancient sagas with the modern novel. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955. However, this 1960s absurdist Taisit play — about a little old man and wife who dismiss money despite making a fairy-tale fortune pressing trousers — is in a mess.

The political significance of a snooping detective and an angry trade union, arriving as a brass band, falls into confusion as the snooper dresses up in aristocratic drag to deposit a war orphan on the old couple. And, growing up with aspirations, marries a dirty rat who feigns to be a humanitarian and manufacturer of fodder for mice who must rule the earth.

All this might be more illuminating and amusing if the extras stopped pulling faces, and the old folks had their lines under their belts. The director, Dawn Linfern, has mistaken our author's surname for an aesthetic approach. The production is flat. Still, Nina Andresen's Andra is natural, sweet and sturdy, and James Menzies-Kitchin acts his socks off as the rat Ronald Reeker, icy yet predatory, doing the boogie-woogie like a Machiavellian weasel.

KATE BASSETT



Theatre Kana's Janusz Janiszewski and Slawoj Golanski show fine timing and physical vigour in *The Night*

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Passages that touch the heart

Bournemouth SO/Hickox
Barbican

AFTER an electrifying start to their Vaughan Williams cycle, with the *Sea Symphony* and *Sinfonia Antartica* a fortnight ago, Richard Hickox and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra have had a lot to live up to. In the third concert of the series, featuring the Fourth, Fifth and Eighth Symphonies, they periodically scaled the same peaks of inspiration.

Certainly it proved as controversial a piece of programming as the opening concert. For the Fourth and Eighth together make a substantial first half: well over an hour. Yet it was astute planning, for the genial, relaxed Eighth neatly complements the abrasive, intense Fourth, and the two together — especially with the serene Fifth — offer a rounded musical portrait of the composer.

The asperities of the Fourth, inseparable from the composer's prophetic fears for the state of Europe in the 1930s, mark the furthest extreme of violence in an oeuvre irrevocably defined by the very opposite. Those grinding semitonal clashes that open the symphony often sound, to these ears at least, unconvincing — as though a persona is being adopted that does not quite fit. Hickox's rendering, dynamic and forward-thrusting rather than dwelling on the discords, made good sense of the passage. And its varied return, at the end of the whole work, provided a surge of energy that was not simply naked violence.

In that context, the cheers of

an appreciative audience did not seem out of place. And it was easier to forgive the sometimes crude foghorn blasts on the tuba, not to mention the occasionally non-aligned brass choruses. To be fair, the performances of the Eighth and the Fifth — and often of the Fourth, too — were generally on a high level, even if the stunning form of the opening concert was not consistently recaptured.

One could criticise the over-prominent trumpet motif of the Eighth's first movement, or the similarly stark opening to the cor anglais solo of the Fifth's rhapsody, and not everybody breathed as one organism at the radiant side-shift into E major in the Fifth's first movement. On the other hand, there were some impressive things, notably the succulent chord progression for muted and divided strings, that opens the rhapsody: perfectly aligned and poetically expressive at the same time. But best of all were the expansively lyrical passages — especially those spiritually glowing moments of the Fifth — where Hickox and his players came close to the music's heart, revealing its "greatness of soul", as it was aptly described when the work was new, half a century ago.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Virtuoso keeps them guessing

NS/Schiff
Middlesbrough Town Hall

MIDDLESBROUGH Town Hall has installed a coffee counter for the interval. It might seem a small thing but, as an indication of a new willingness to cater for a notoriously eccentric minority, it could be a turning point in the development of the cultural life of the region. Certainly, any change of that kind must be welcome to regular visitors such as the Northern Sinfonia.

With a new season to open and a new publication to launch — a rudimentarily designed but promising combination of programme notes, news items and features — it is obviously not encouraging to open your doors on a town centre all but deserted at 7pm and with only the most devoted of supporters likely to walk up the stone steps, buy a ticket and receive a free copy of *Classical North*.

What is on offer inside, on the other hand, is chamber-orchestral playing of international quality, as was clear from the moment Heinrich Schiff raised his baton on Rossini's *Barber of Seville* Overture.

Style was not cramped by the depressing circumstances of a much undersold concert and the occasional extraneous detail was noticeable only because of the exceptional clarity of the Sinfonia sound.

There were problems with the integration of wind and strings, particularly in Ives's *Unanswered Question* — it is

always difficult to make the first entry of the trumpet anything other than an intrusion on the harmonies sustained by the strings — but the performance of Mozart's *Symphony No 39* in E flat was smoothly lyrical if not exceptionally illuminating.

The soloist of the evening was Ivry Gitlis, a remarkable survivor of a disappearing generation of violinists brought up on the teaching of Enescu, Thibaud and Flesch.

Peculiarly unconcerned about holding up events by adjusting the tension of his bow or about all-too-audibly revealing the position of his left hand before making an entry, he gave an extraordinary account of Paganini's First Violin Concerto.

The sound is not as seductive as it was, the intonation is frankly edgy at times, and not every passage of double-stopped harmonies or whatever actually came off.

But in his totally fearless way he performed prodigies of technical excess and virtuoso brilliance, inspiring awe in the audience and keeping Schiff and the Sinfonia in continual suspense as to what he might do next.

GERALD LARNER

VISIONS OF AFRICA

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Pendant (gikinkho), Central Pende, Zaire, ivory

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Closing date for applications: 20th October 1995.

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DEPARTMENT
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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

MERTON COLLEGE OXFORD

Fellowship and Tutorship in Philosophy

The College proposes to elect an official Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy with effect from 1st October 1996. An interest in Moral Philosophy is essential, but otherwise no particular specialism is required. The appointment will be for five years and is not renewable. The post will not be associated with a University Lectureship, and the duties attached will not include any duties to the University. The appointee will be in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations. Further particulars are obtainable from the Wardens' Secretary, Merton College, Oxford OX1 4JD, UK. Tel: 01865 276382 (answerphone) or fax: 01865 276232. Applications should be received by 30th October 1995.

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The Governing Body of Clare Hall proposes to elect one stipendiary Research Fellow and two or more non-stipendiary Research Fellows in the Arts and Social Sciences for a period of three years starting mainly from October 1996. There are no restrictions on age, sex or previous standing, except those who have previously held College Research Fellowships in Oxford or Cambridge are not eligible. The closing date for the receipt of applications and references is 1 December 1995. Candidates are responsible for seeing that their curriculum vitae and references reach the College by this date.

Application forms to be obtained (written requests only, stamped addressed envelope required) from: The College Secretary, Clare Hall, Hensel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK.

Candidates will be asked on their applications to state whether, in the event of their not being elected to the stipendiary fellowship, they would be willing to accept a non-stipendiary fellowship; before elections to such a fellowship, candidates would need to demonstrate to the Committee that they will have financial support from other sources. Clare Hall is a charity for the promotion of education.

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For further information please contact Bacci Newton, Centre for Management Development, University of Brighton, Millers House, Lewes Road, Brighton BN2 4AT.
Tel: (01273) 642976, Fax: (01273) 642980.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Department of Medicine, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

CHAIR OF TRANSFUSION MEDICINE & REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The University of Glasgow intends to appoint a Professor of Transfusion Medicine with effect from 1 April, 1996 or such other date as may be agreed. This newly established Chair has been funded by the Common Services Agency of the Scottish Health Service (CSA) through the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) and is combined with the post of Director of the West of Scotland Regional Blood Transfusion Service (West BTS). As part of this process, applications are invited from those who have extensive experience in teaching, research and administration.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, to whom applications (3 copies, 1 copy in the case of overseas applicants), giving the name and address of three referees, should be lodged on or before 10th November, 1995.

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Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Dame Allan's Schools, Fawcett Crescent, Farnham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9YJ.
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INTERNAL PROGRAMME

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Wilde Lectureship in Natural and Comparative Religion

Applications are invited for two lectureships, one to be held in the academic year beginning 1 October 1996 and the other to be held in the academic year beginning 1 October 1997. Each lecturer is required to deliver not less than eight lectures in each academic year of tenure (candidates are asked to indicate any specific preference as regards periods of tenure). On this criterion, preference will, other things being equal, be given to candidates proposing subjects in the field of Comparative Religion. The emoluments of each post will be about £2,600 a year.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the Wilde Lectures, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, to whom applications naming three referees but without testimonials, should be submitted by 15 November 1995.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Applicants should have previous relevant experience, a knowledge of equal opportunities issues, strong analytical skills, and should be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, (Tel. 01865 270003), to whom applications with a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be sent by 27 October 1995.

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RESEARCH

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

Junior Research Fellow in Law

The College proposes to elect to a Junior Research Fellowship, tenable for two or three years from 1 October 1996. This post is open to men or women intending to pursue research in any field of Law or Legal Studies, broadly defined.

Further information may be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Jesus College, Oxford OX1 3DW, who should receive applications by 10 November 1995. It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees (three are required) to send their references direct to the Principal's Secretary by the same date.

Junior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences/Engineering

The College proposes to elect to a Junior Research Fellowship, tenable for two or three years from 1 October 1996. This post is open to men or women intending to pursue research in either Earth Sciences or Engineering.

Further information may be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Jesus College, Oxford OX1 3DW, who should receive applications by 10 November 1995. It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees (three are required) to send their references direct to the Principal's Secretary by the same date.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Friday 27th October

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Near the top of the pile

Neither of the main parties, however, has given education the



Colin Rallings, whose unit at Plymouth University is the leading authority on local polls, believes

For the moment, however, the unprecedentedly high profile seems set to continue. Labour is keen to exploit a massive opinion poll lead on the subject, while the Conservatives see areas of weakness for their opponents. In spite of the convergence of policy in many areas, there

Mr Blair can be expected to continue the search for new poli-

election campaign starts, because when it does the old order is likely to be restored.

We found the hall, parked and wandered in. We arrived just after midday and the place was busy. Parents were manhandling cases, boxes, plants... Students are a self-sufficient lot but it seems that

I volunteered to go and introduce myself to the other students reading law, but this was not appreciated. We were now completely redundant and we decided to leave. We said our farewells and no doubt the next time we see our student she will be a veteran. Perhaps then I will get to meet the cool people.

PETER WADE

Secondly, the whole point and joy of reading is that the author speaks directly to the reader. An Austen-Elkin hot-



Thirdly, any dramatisation – however ‘authentic’ – stands in the same relation to its base novel as a lurid, frothy, junk-food trifle does to an honest and wholesome sponge cake. The novel becomes an ingredient – squashed, soaked and re-shashed; then presented in a totally different form. New ingredients get mixed in, too. The *Pride and Prejudice* theme music opens with a descending piano scale. Where is James Herriot? It sounds as if he’s due at any minute. After a bit of psalme neo-classical, it resorts to the stryptic strains of the Palm Court Muzak

Nonchance to her husband than an eligible bachelor has taken the tenancy of Netherfield Hall take place — most inconspicuously — as the family hurries home from church.

Neither is there an authorial voice in Davies's *Pride and Prejudice* to persuade and incline the reader's sympathies. We know from what they say just how vulgar and ill-bred are Jane Austen's Miss Bingley and Mrs Hurst.

Of course, there's a lot of money bound up in all this. It costs millions of pounds per episode, we are told. A commercially ingenious, but other-

Ours is a brave new world in which far too much of life is already ruled by the visual media. It is the job of English teachers to expose young people to as many written words, especially those of our finest exponents, as possible. I wish they would erase the series from both the tapes and their thinking. *Pride and Prejudice* deserves to be read. To fob schoolchildren off with a video is to sell them short.

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Wales on verge of historic victory

By a Special Correspondent

WALES recorded one of the most remarkable victories in the long history of the women's home international golf championship when they came from behind to defeat England, the holders, 5-4 at Wrexham yesterday. Success against Scotland today will give them their first title.

Ireland edged to a 5-4 victory over Scotland in the other second-day match, and they will complete the series by facing England, trailing 2-1 after the morning foursomes. Wales fought back to capture four of the six singles, with the winning point coming from Vicki Thomas, the former Curtis Cup player, who recovered from a two-hole deficit early in the match to beat Emma Daggley 2 and 1.

Another heroine was the newest member of the team, Louise Davis. She has won all of her three games so far and yesterday clinched a vital point when she overcame Joanne Oliver on the final green.

Ireland won two of the three foursomes against Scotland but then had to save off a revival by their opponents in the afternoon.

For much of the day the drama unfolded on the course was overshadowed by the news that Sue Lovatt, of Wales, had walked out after being omitted from the first-day line-up.

She left despite having been included in the four-somes pairing for yesterday's match. The chairman of the Welsh Ladies' Golf Union, Joan Neville, said: "As far as we know she went home for personal reasons but we are trying to get to the bottom of the matter."

Results, page 43

Old rivals aim to set World Cup alight

By Christopher Irvine

RUGBY league puts its troubles behind it tomorrow as the action leaves the committee rooms and explodes onto the turf of Wembley Stadium in the opening match of the Halifax World Cup - England against Australia.

There is a familiar onus on the players to make up for the fine mess those running the game have got it into. The good news is that there are the teams and individuals, notwithstanding Australia's Super League absence, capable of putting on a show worthy of rugby league's centenary celebrations.

Whether the harmony will not now begin and end with the singer, Diana Ross, in the opening festivities at Wembley, Hatters were burned at the opening banquet at the Cafe Royal in London on Wednesday by Maurice Lindsay, the tournament director and chief executive of the Rugby Football League, and Ken Arthurson, his Australian counterpart and director-general of the International Rugby League Board. It is a temporary peace, nonetheless.

Hostilities will resume when a new international authority under the Super League banner is formed next month. This will leave the Australian Rugby League (ARL) isolated, but hanging on to control in its country and still confident of winning the continuing court battle in Sydney to prevent the Super League there from starting at the same time as the Anglo-French version next March.

In the meantime, the athletes can do the talking. Lindsay said. They will, but not yet, while the cloud of sluggish ticket sales hangs over an event inadequately promoted and poorly sold. Wembley, possibly less than

half-full tomorrow, and the prospect of a return there for the final on October 28, will not be a ringing declaration of a sport in rude health.

The involvement of 17 countries in the tournament and the emerging nations event is the most encouraging aspect of the forthcoming three weeks. Yet for all the footfalls being gained globally and a new-found sense of internationalism, the game in England is still locked in stasis around its northern territories, with no genuine sign, as yet, of breaking out.

Whether the Super League will do the trick, since the World Cup is fast taking on the look of another missed opportunity, remains to be seen. It will require a far harder sell. Losing Martin Offiah, through injury, for the showpiece opening match and having the other leading player in the promotional campaign, Jonathan Davies, on the verge of returning to rugby union, has not helped this tournament.

In its 41-year history, the World Cup, a moveable and often unwieldy feast in the past, has failed to grip the public imagination in the way meetings between Great Britain and Australia have, or used to do, as the ARL has declared the Ashes series over because of the Super League's emergence. This confrontation is the reason more than 73,000 attended the 1992 World Cup final and, perhaps, why the ill-advised division into England and Wales has diluted the attraction this time.

As Australia, captained by a veteran of 1992 in Brad Fittler, have weakened their team by ignoring Super League players, the effect has been to balance the tournament's outcome, England are missing



Fittler, a veteran of the 1992 World Cup, captains Australia this time

only Davies and Kelvin Skerrett from last year's Great Britain side, so there is no better chance of ending Australia's 20-year dominance.

The threat to the two favourites is three-fold. There have been enough disappointments and let-downs to dismiss New Zealand on one hand. On the other, the sum of their many splendid parts must add up sometime. As they will almost certainly meet the winners of Saturday's match in the semi-finals, New

Zealand will be willing on England. They were beaten three times by Australia in the summer.

From the most competitive of the three groups, Wales or Western Samoa, the potential surprise package, should emerge, unless the erratic French come good. As they showed in taking the European championship last season, Wales, thanks to sons of Welsh grandfathers, have the pack to supplement the quicksilver in the back line. Their

meeting with the Samoans at Swansea on Sunday week is the other plum group match.

Fiji and Tonga should be competitive with a number of their players steered in the furnace of Australian competition, and Papua New Guinea will be no pushovers. South Africa are the probable exception, and a thrashing by Australia and England will do little good for a game struggling to start there.

Let the good fight be fought. Rugby league needs it.

Higgins pays dearly for inexperience

JOHN PARROTT reached the semi-finals of the Thailand Classic snooker tournament in Bangkok yesterday with a 5-3 victory over John Higgins, winner of three ranking events last season (Phil Yates writes). While not at his best, Higgins recovered from the loss of the first frame to lead 3-2, but 36-100 in the sixth, he missed a straightforward red and Parrott cleared to the pink with 51 to draw level at 3-3.

That reversal unsettled Higgins, who saved a simple red early in the seventh frame. Parrott fashioned a clinical 124 break to lead 4-3 before winning the eighth frame by clearing from the last red to blue after laying a difficult snooker from which Higgins narrowly failed to escape. Parrott, who will now meet Stephen Hendry for a place in the best-of-17 frame final, said: "I think John's inexperience showed in the last frame when he took on a red he shouldn't have done, but there is probably more pressure on him these days, bearing in mind he won three titles last season."

Steelers go Dutch

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers begin their European campaign in Tilburg, Holland, tonight, hopeful of at least equalling the performance of Cardiff Devils, who last year became the first British club to reach the second round of the Europa Cup (Norman de Mesquita writes). It will be harder, though, for the Steelers because the structure of the competition has been altered and only one team will go through from the group matches this weekend instead of two, as last year. Sheffield play Tilburg this evening (7pm), Olimpija Ljubljana of Slovenia, tomorrow (2pm) and Tauris Urdorf, of Spain, on Sunday (2.30pm). All the games are being shown live on Sky.

Olympic hopes dashed

GYMNASTICS: Britain's hopes of qualifying for the Olympic Games were wrecked when Annika Reeder, Zita Lusack and Gemma Cuffall fell from the asymmetric bars at the world championships in Sabae, Japan. The team finished 22nd in the compulsory exercises, a position which cannot be sufficiently improved by the voluntary routines today and tomorrow. The men face a similar fate after finishing seventeenth in the compulsory.

Yankees kept waiting

BASEBALL: Jim Leyritz brought the longest play-off game in American League history to a satisfactory conclusion for the New York Yankees, hitting a two-run home run in the fifteenth inning to defeat Seattle 7-5. The victory gave New York a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series. In the other American League contest, Cleveland lead Boston 2-0, while in the National League, Atlanta and Cincinnati lead 2-0 against Colorado and Los Angeles respectively.

Crowds greet Sri Lanka

CRICKET: The Sri Lanka squad enjoyed a tumultuous homecoming in Katunayake yesterday after their historic tour of Pakistan, during which they won both the Test and one-day series. Each member of the touring party was showered with garlands at the airport before parading past crowds waving banners and letting off fireworks. Kevin Shine, the Middlesex fast bowler, has been released after two years with the county.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report October 6 1995

Court of Appeal

Policy on parole is unreasonable

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Norway and Others
Before Mr Justice Dyson
[Judgment September 28]

The policy applied by the Home Secretary in refusing to refer the cases of discretionary life prisoners to the Parole Board until after the expiry of the "tariff period" of their sentences, was unreasonable, producing manifestly unjust results and was therefore unlawful.

However, the approach of the chairman of the Parole Board, in declining to accelerate the board's hearing of the applicants' cases, could not be impugned.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division, refusing to grant declarations that Paul Norney, Stephen Norde, Brendan Dowd, Sean Kinsella and Noel Gibson were entitled to Parole Board hearings no longer than one month after the expiry of such tariff periods, and an order of certiorari quashing the decision of Mr Justice Potts refusing to order expedition of those hearings.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for the applicants; Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that in May 1976 the applicants, members of the Provisional IRA, were sentenced to terms of life imprisonment. In 1992 each was notified, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Schedule 12 to the Criminal Justice Act

1991, that the secretary of state had fixed a period of 20 years as the tariff period element of his sentence, that period considered necessary for the purposes of retribution and deterrence.

Those periods were due to expire on various dates early in 1995. The other element of the sentence, to begin thereafter, was the risk element, designed to protect the public against the danger of re-offending in a similar way; see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody* ([1994] 1 AC 531, 550F-G).

On March 29, 1995 the applicants' solicitors wrote to the Home Secretary asking that their cases be referred to the Parole Board forthwith and that steps be taken to ensure that the cases were heard by the board immediately on the expiry of the tariff periods.

It was implicit in the Home Secretary's replies that he accepted that he had a discretion to refer the cases before the expiry of the tariff periods, but that he declined to do so in the absence of any compelling reason.

The background to the 1991 Act had been *Thyne, Wilson and Ginnell v United Kingdom*, associated *Times* December 10, 1990; [1990] 13 EHRR 666 where the European Court of Human Rights had upheld a claim that English law infringed article 5(4) of the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969) which provided: "Everyone who is deprived of liberty ... shall be

entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful."

Section 34 of the 1991 Act provided: "(3) As soon as ... a discretionary life prisoner (a) has served his tariff period and (b) the Parole Board has directed his release under this section, it shall be the duty of the secretary of state to release him on licence."

"(4) The board shall not give a direction under subsection (3) above ... unless (a) the secretary of state has referred the prisoner's case to the board; and (b) the board is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined."

"(5) A discretionary life prisoner may require the secretary of state to refer his case to the board at any time ... (a) after he has served the relevant part of his sentence ..."

The Home Secretary's policy of not, without some compelling reason, referring any discretionary life prisoner's case to the board until after the expiry of his tariff period, was unreasonable, and the relevant part of his sentence ... The Home Secretary's policy of not, without some compelling reason, referring any discretionary life prisoner's case to the board until after the expiry of his tariff period, was unreasonable, and the relevant part of his sentence ...

period by 23 weeks, the length of the timetable laid down by Parole Board rules.

There would accordingly be a declaration that the Home Secretary should have referred the applicants' cases to the Parole Board at such times as would have ensured, so far as practicable, that their cases were heard by it immediately upon the expiry of their tariff periods or shortly after.

However, the applicants' attack on the conduct of the board had failed on the facts, its practice in all terrorist cases was to be considered by a panel chaired by a member who was a High Court judge, of which there were only two.

In the circumstances, the board had no alternative but to accept the references at the time they were made and to apply the normal procedure to them. Until the panel heard the evidence and arguments it was impossible to say that the applicants had stronger cases for release than those whose cases had already been listed for hearing up to December 1995. Relief against the chairman's decision not to order an expedited hearing of their cases was accordingly refused.

Solicitors: B. M. Barnberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

First Tokyo Index Trust Ltd v Morgan Stanley Trust Co and Others, Ashurst Morris Crisp and Others, third parties
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Thorpe
[Judgment October 4]

The purpose of the requirement of leave to appeal, to provide a filter to save unnecessary time and expense, was at risk where the grant of leave by the single lord justice was followed by application to the full Court of Appeal for it to be set aside.

Such an application could only succeed by satisfying a high threshold test and the interests of all court users, viewed in the round, were best served if the grant of leave were treated, save in the most obvious cases, as conclusive.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an application by the first and second defendants, Morgan Stanley Trust Co and Morgan Stanley UK Group, for reconsideration of leave to appeal granted by Lord Justice Finkelstein on paper on the ex parte application of the

first third party, Ashurst Morris Crisp, from Mr Justice Blackburne who had refused their application that the claims made against them in the action brought against the defendants by the plaintiff, First Tokyo Index Trust Ltd, be struck out under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court or under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

Mr Mark Barnes, QC, for the first and second defendants; Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr John McCaughan for the first third party.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to *The Iran Nabuat* (1990) 1 WLR 1115, 1117-1118, where Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, had said that if one lord justice thought an appeal was arguable it was really necessary for an applicant seeking a reconsideration of that grant of leave to be able to point to a factor not drawn to the lord justice's attention, or to the fact that he had overlooked a statutory provision or an authority which was decisive in the sense that the appeal would inevitably fail.

His Lordship said that inconsistent observations made in other cases had occasionally been relied on but that the passage he had referred to was the authoritative statement of the law setting out the rule which the court applied.

The full court would not set aside leave granted by the lord justice even if of opinion that it would probably not have granted leave itself or that the lord justice was being over indulgent to the prospective appellant in granting leave.

The rationale of that rule of practice was to be found in considerations of practical efficiency and also of justice. The requirement of leave was a filter to obviate the expenditure of money and court time on appeals which had no hope of success.

The decision whether to grant leave was usually made in the first instance on paper by the single lord justice who would refuse leave if of clear opinion that the appeal was not arguable.

He would be anxious not to stifle appeals which might succeed, even if speculative of their chances and would give the prospective appellant the benefit of the doubt.

The object of the procedure was to avoid waste of unnecessary time and money and to cut out

unnecessary expense and delay which represented a form of injustice to litigants.

Obviously that object was frustrated if the grant of leave was followed by an application to set aside, unless the application was unsuccessful at the appeal itself.

Otherwise there was a risk that a procedure intended to save cost and delay increased both, by inserting two procedures, the grant of leave on paper and the application to set aside. In addition to the hearing of the appeal itself.

It was to minimise that risk that a high threshold was imposed for applications to set aside the leave granted by the single lord justice. The interests of all court users, viewed in the round, were best served if the grant of leave was treated in all but the most obvious cases as conclusive.

It was his Lordship's clear view that in the present case there was nothing to suggest that *The Iran Nabuat* test was satisfied and that leave should not be set aside.

Lord Justice Henry delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Richards Butler; Ince & Co.

International Law Report

New Zealand case against French tests fails

New Zealand v France
Before Judge Badarinaray, President, Judge Schwebel, Vice-President and Judges Oda, Guillaume, Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry, Ranjeva, Herczegh, Shi, Fleischhauer, Koroma, Vereshchetin, Ferrari Bravo, Higgins and Judge ad hoc Palmer
Registrar E. Valencia-Orsina
[Judgment September 22]

The International Court of Justice had no jurisdiction to reopen in relation to underground nuclear tests a finding in 1974 based on a claim relating to atmospheric nuclear tests.

The International Court, by a majority of 12 to three Judges Weeramantry, Koroma and Judge ad hoc Palmer dissenting, dismissed a request for an examination of the situation in accordance with paragraph 63 of the judgment of the court of December 20, 1974 in *Nuclear Tests (New Zealand v France)* [1974] ICJ Reports 457 submitted by New Zealand on August 21, 1995 as not falling within the provisions of that paragraph.

The request by New Zealand for provisional measures and applications to intervene and declarations of intervention by Australia, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia were consequently also dismissed.

The Court said that New Zealand founded its request on paragraph 63 of the judgment of December 20, 1974, which provided:

"Once the Court has found that a State has entered into a commitment concerning its future conduct it is not the Court's function to contemplate that it will not comply with it. However ... if the basis of this judgment were to be affected, the applicant could request an examination of the situation in accordance with the provisions of the Statute; the denunciation by France, by letter dated January 2, 1974, of the General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, which is relied on as a basis of jurisdiction ... cannot constitute by itself an obstacle to the presentation of such a request."

The question had to be answered in the affirmative whether the requests submitted to the Court fell within the provisions of paragraph 63 of the judgment of December 20, 1974, and the present proceedings had been limited to that question.

The question had two elements: one concerning the courses of procedure envisaged by the Court in paragraph 63 when it stated that the applicant could request an examination of the situation in accordance with the provisions of the Statute, and the other concerning the question whether the basis of the judgment had been affected

within the meaning of paragraph 63.

As to the first element, New Zealand expressed the view that paragraph 63 was a mechanism enabling the continuation or resumption of the proceedings of 1973 and 1974; they had not been finally determined. The Court had foreseen that the course of future events might require that New Zealand should have that opportunity to continue its case, the progress of which had been stopped in 1974, and to that end the Court had, in paragraph 63, authorised the present derivative proceedings.

New Zealand added that in pointing to the provisions of the Statute paragraph 63 could only be referring to the procedure applicable with the existence of those circumstances, and if they did not arise the procedure was not available.

To consider the second element of the question raised the Court had to define the basis of the judgment of 1974 by an analysis of its text.

The Court in 1974 had found that for the purposes of that application, the New Zealand claim was to be interpreted as applying only to atmospheric tests so conducted as to give rise to radioactive fallout on New Zealand territory.

In making its findings the Court had dealt with the question whether New Zealand, in filing its application in 1973, might have had broader objectives than the cessation of atmospheric tests. Since the current task of the Court was limited to an analysis of the 1974 judgment it could not now reopen that question.

The basis of the judgment of 1974 was France's undertaking not to conduct any further atmospheric nuclear tests. It was only in the event of resumption of such tests that the basis of the judgment would have been affected and that hypothesis had not materialised.

Consequently the Court could not take into account questions relating to underground nuclear tests or the arguments derived by New Zealand from the conditions in which France had conducted such tests since 1974 and from the development of international law in recent decades.

The basis of the 1974 judgment had not been affected and New Zealand's request did not fall within paragraph 63. The request had to be dismissed. The Court likewise dismissed New Zealand's further request for the indication of provisional measures and the applications to intervene, submitted by Australia, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and the declarations of intervention made by the last four states.

The Hague

Scots Law Report October 6 1995

Use as agricultural holding

City of Aberdeen District Council v Ben Reid & Co Ltd
Before Lord Hamilton
[Judgment August 3]

A garden centre was not necessarily an "agricultural holding"; whether it was would depend on the relative use made of the land, on the one hand, for the propagation of plants, and, on the other, for the retail and wholesale sale of plants, whether grown there or brought in, and other goods.

Lord Hamilton so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session allowing *procurator fiscal* to answer in an action brought by the City of Aberdeen District Council against Ben Reid & Co Ltd contending for declaration that certain subjects over which the pursuers had granted a lease in favour of the defenders were not an "agricultural holding" within the meaning of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act of 1949 and 1991.

Mr Duncan Menzies, QC, for the pursuers; Mr Gordon Reid, QC, for the defenders.

LORD HAMILTON said that the

lease provided: "The ground leased shall only be used by the tenants ... for the operation thereof of their business of seedsmen and nurserymen including without prejudice to the foregoing generally the wholesale and retail sale of the products of the business and the carrying on generally of the usual business of a retail garden centre."

The pursuers contended that actual use was a matter of fact which could not be resolved without proof. The pursuers were offering to prove that the predominant use of the subjects was the business activity of selling, wholesale and retail, garden plants, garden tools, seeds, compost, chemicals and trees. Sale was not restricted to produce of the subjects; items were brought in for resale. They submitted that they had relevantly averred "a use ... on which the court would be entitled to hold that the actual use of the subjects was otherwise than for agriculture."

In his Lordship's opinion, the terms of the lease clause did not per se negative agricultural use.

Among other considerations, the expression "the usual business of a retail garden centre" did not exclude the possibility that the subjects on which such a business was carried on might be an agricultural holding; see *Short v Greaves* (1988) 1 EGLR 11.

The pursuers however averred that the predominant use was not agricultural but the retail and wholesale sale of plants and other goods. To obtain declaration they would require to establish that as a matter of substance the land comprised in the tenancy, taken as a whole, was otherwise than an agricultural holding; see *Hawkins v Jardine* (1951) 1 KB 614.

His Lordship was unable to accept the defenders' submission that the pursuers' averments of use were consistent only with use for agriculture. Much would depend on the relationship between the use of the subjects for the propagation of products of the soil and their use as a shop for the sale of bought-in plants and other goods would also be material.

Law agents: Bennett & Robertson; Ledingham Chalmers.

Challenging curriculum pushes pupils to limit

Williams sees future in driving seat of learning

THE fresh faces and the wide-eyed enthusiasm had given Frank Williams something to think about. The computerised flight map on his private jet showed it was heading for the French coast on the short journey back to Oxford but his mind was racing on to more distant ends. Michael Schumacher seems to have cornered the market in winning the Formula One drivers' world championship but new challengers are on the horizon.

The Williams team owner had just seen a vision of the future, a greenhouse-like young driver running the Elf fuel company in the shadow of the circuit at Le Mans. They call it a motor sports university, a racing version of Blenheim Abbey, and earlier this week Williams welcomed its first British "student", Matthew Davies, 18, a kitting prodigy, weighed down with titles and awards.

Davies, from Essex, still has a long way to go. He is racing in a domestic French series called Formula Campus, now, and the next step is Renault.

From there, if he is good enough, he will progress to Formula Three and then, possibly, to Formula 3000 and finally Formula One. If Elf takes its plans to their logical extent, it may establish a junior grand prix team into which it can feed the outstanding products of its system.

By the time Davies and his contemporaries, who are drawn from as far afield as the United States, Mexico, Japan and Spain, filter through,

Oliver Holt on a school fuelling young hopes of Formula One graduation

Schumacher may be in the autumn of his career. He may even have turned his back on motor sport by then with a clutch of championships to his credit. But his present dominance in the world of Formula One is a challenge to the very best.

Schumacher's dominance is a challenge to the very best. Williams' Renault is generally considered to be the best car in the grand prix field, the German in his Benetton-Renault stands at the brink of his second successive championship, a commanding 27 points

ahead of Damon Hill with three races to go. Everyone is searching for someone who might take on the young German among the present crop but with David Coulthard lost to McLaren, Williams has had to look further afield.

Usually, Williams has gone for the best drivers available, he said. "In previous years, we would usually have had a choice of Alain Prost, Ayrton Senna or Nigel Mansell and if you got any one of those guys, you could have a good honest crack at the championship. I am not denigrating our guys but today it is a little bit different."

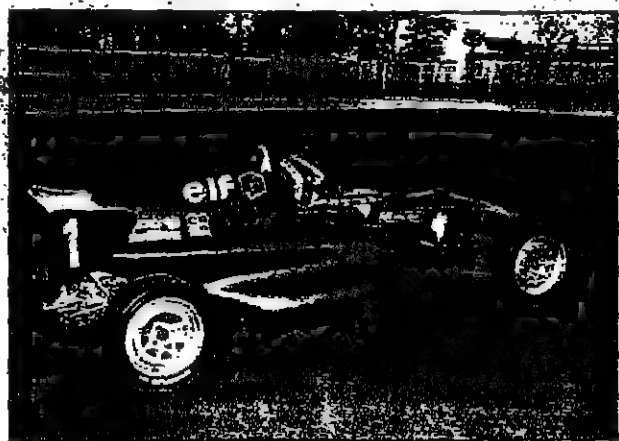
"This season, Michael Schumacher has proved he is

a bit special. You therefore might be motivated to look for someone else to emerge, someone to come from somewhere and it is not apparent that that will happen in Europe. That is one of the reasons why we have taken Jacques Villeneuve from IndyCars."

By now, the nine-seater Falcon 50 that is testimony to the Williams team's engineering excellence and acumen in choosing drivers is nearly back at base in Oxford. At Le Mans, Davies is preparing for the final race of the Formula Campus series and an attempt to improve his position of eighth in the championship.

Next year, he will move to France to study at the school full-time, racing in Formula Renault, learning more about the mechanical side of the cars and the public relations and legal areas that are an essential part of a modern driver's portfolio. "It is an honour for me to be here," he said. "Motor racing is an expensive business and Elf's sponsorship of young drivers is the best chance I have got of reaching Formula One."

Just before the plane lands, Williams thinks back for a minute to the best young drivers he ever saw. Prost was not immediately impressive, he said, but Ayrton Senna, in a Toleman, and Schumacher, in a Jordan, at Spa in 1991 had impressed themselves on his memory. Villeneuve in a Williams in the first race of the season in Melbourne next March has a heavy weight of expectation on his shoulders.



The Formula Campus car in which Davies is competing



Davies, a kitting prodigy at 18, is seeking to take the fast track to motor racing success as the first British student at the Elf company's La Filière school

Boardman prepares for road to recovery

By Peter Bryan

CHRIS BOARDMAN returns to competitive cycling on Sunday for the first time since crashing out of the Tour de France 14 weeks ago. He will contest a 28-mile time-trial on the Delamere Forest circuit in Cheshire, an event that he has won six times.

"I am not 100 per cent fit," he said yesterday after an hour-long training session at the Manchester Velodrome, "but you can discount any suggestion that I will not be riding to win. I shall. If I don't win, it will not be a disaster, only a disappointment."

The time-trial, restricted to the top 50 riders in the country, has all the makings of a grand finale to the domestic season. Boardman will be the last man to ride; five minutes ahead of him will be Gedfin Butler, Britain's best all-round champion, while Richard Prebble, a three-times national time-trial winner, will start ten minutes before the Olympic pursuit champion.

Boardman said that he was satisfied with his recovery from the double fracture of his left ankle and the broken right wrist sustained when he crashed going into a left-hand bend on a wet road. He also confirmed that the fall had severed tendons and nerves in his left foot. "It might be possible, later, to reverse the damage, but I don't contemplate surgery," he said.

Boardman's return to the track is scheduled for October 23, in Paris, where the opposition will include Graeme Obree, who took his world pursuit title last week.

Television gets ready to call the tune for rugby

Each week, an item of rugby news challenges the sport's attachment to its past. While the history of over 100 years is being dimmed piece by piece, there is, as yet, no coherent vision of what the future might hold. Players, clubs and administrators are all having to fly by the seat of their collective pants.

Who would have anticipated, for example, the swiftness with which the barriers between rugby union and rugby league have been torn down, bringing Jonathan Davies to the brink of returning to the union game. Since he left Wales for Widnes in 1989, his spirit has hovered over Welsh rugby, picking the consciences of all those who, by their mean and narrow view of what his talent represented, forced him to go. How quickly will he adapt to the different tactics of the game he left seven years ago? Will he find that he is taking part in a sport that is rapidly forced to change its ways?

It might begin to resemble more and more the sport he is now hoping to leave.

This freedom of passage between the two codes raises other issues. If, so far, it is the administrative details and financial values that have primarily occupied attention, what of the game itself and how it is played? Certain members of the international board had been wrestling with the laws before the game declared itself professional. They are known to want to consider changes.

Originally, they were prompted by fears that rugby was becoming less varied and therefore less interesting. For example, they have been considering the dimensions of the playing area. With greater fitness, speed and size among the players, the dimensions of

Gerald Davies looks at the changes a professional game must prepare for

the pitch, which have remained almost unchanged since the game's beginnings, are now thought to be inadequate. If this area cannot be widened because it is fixed within the parameters of a stadium, then it is felt that other options, like the reduction in the number of players from 15 to 13, are possible.

Other changes may be fundamental and far-reaching. Indeed, there are those within rugby union who already believe that, with rugby league, a hybrid game should be devised. If the motivation behind this idea stems from a lack of movement and con-

the BBC can. Rugby union will then be perceived as a television product. Once the first substantial cheque is signed, rugby will find it difficult to resist the medium's influence and may find that it has to mend its ways in order to become more television-friendly than it is at present. A new audience must be understood what it sees.

What rugby league understood from its early days, rugby union must come to terms with today. The game's contentious areas must disappear. Rucks and mauls, the difference between which few understand, will have to go. What the television executive may ask is the point of kicking the ball so often into touch when what our audience needs is for the ball to be in and not out of play? The kicking should be stopped and lineouts done away with.

With a television audience's attention span notoriously low, the administrators may wish then to consider the number of penalties — so notoriously high — that are awarded.

There were 41 in Llanelli's game with Cardiff last weekend. A figure in the mid-thirties is more usual. Although there is meant to be no "undue delay" in taking any one of these, a full minute can be allowed under the laws. This might be thought a considerable waste of time.

However, with rucks, mauls and lineouts confined to the past and the destructive presence of wing forwards committed to the dustbin in a 13-man game, penalties might come to be awarded only for obstructive and dangerous play. The transformation will be complete — and then some old codger who remembered the way things were might care then to reinvent amateur rugby union.

'Financial expediency will be the guiding principle'

and the need to brighten things up, the free market forces of professional rugby union will help concentrate minds further. The need to generate finance will be a priority — in which case, television will play an increasingly influential role, as it has in the southern hemisphere.

For all the admirably fine words about needing the levels of audiences that terrestrial television is capable of delivering in order to develop interest in the game, the rugby union authorities will have to succumb to a different philosophy. Financial expediency, not altruism, will be the guiding principle. Professional sport is expensive to run. Subscription or pay-per-view television can recover investment in a way neither TV nor

Bath opt to leave out Ubogu

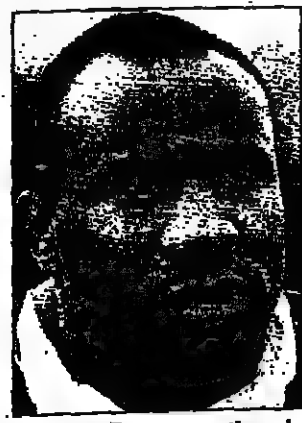
By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE week that marked England's first training run of the season at Marlow has also produced the demotion of their tight-head prop, Victor Ubogu has been displaced in the Bath team to play Wasps in the Courage league match tomorrow by David Hilton.

Bath do not make any bones about the reason. "We don't think he is contributing to a full game at the moment," John Hall, the team manager, said. "I think it's probably down to a lack of fitness."

Yet Hilton is a loose-head prop and will be playing his first league game at tight head against Nick Poppellwell, the Ireland international.

In other circumstances, John Mallett might have been promoted, but a back injury



Ubogu: fitness questioned

arrangements for the international against South Africa next month. During the pool games of the World Cup last summer, they picked Jason Leonard at tight head against Italy, with Graham Rowntree and Brian Moore, a selection that Jack Rowell, the coach, described then as potentially England's best front row.

Wasps, meanwhile, are optimistic that Poppellwell will remain available to them even if his business commitments take him back to Dublin. His situation would resemble that of Rob Andrew, now based in Newcastle and busy recruiting for Newcastle United Sports Clubs — a drive which has, most recently, embraced Garath Archer and Martin Corry, the Bristol and England forwards who were Newcastle Gosforth players last season.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

BARTLETT, PETER

DUFFALL, CYNTHIA NORTON

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

MULTIPRO LIMITED

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THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT ASSURANCE LIMITED
PFI ASSURANCE LIMITED
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT MANAGED PENSION FUNDS LIMITED

A Petition having been presented for their approval to the Court of Session by the Scottish Provident Institution, a mutual life office incorporated in Great Britain by Act of Parliament and having its registered office at 5 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA, for sanction of a Scheme under which the long term businesses of Scottish Provident Assurance Limited, PFI Assurance Limited and Scottish Provident Managed Pension Funds Limited are to be transferred to the Scottish Provident Institution aforementioned under Section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982, the Lord Ordinary has pronounced an order in the following terms at Edinburgh on 11th August 1995.

The Lord Ordinary appoints the Petitioner to be intimated on the Walls in common form and to be advertised once in each of the Edinburgh Gazette, the Belfast Gazette, the London Gazette, The Times, The Financial Times, The Scotsman, The Herald and The Belfast Telegraph newspapers; grants Warrant for service of the Petition as served, together with a copy of this Intimation, upon the parties named and designed in the schedule annexed hereto; allows them and any other party claiming an interest to lodge Answers, if so advised, within 21 days after such intimation, advertisements, and service; directs registration of the aforesaid advertisements, this Petition and a copy of this Intimation with the Department of Trade and Industry; dispenses with the requirements of paragraph 2 (2) (b) of Schedule 3C of the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Any party wishing to object to the approval of the said Scheme should lodge Answers with the Deputy Principal Clerk of Session, Parliament House, Edinburgh within the period specified herein. Copies of the Petition and the Scheme and of a report on the terms of the Scheme prepared by an independent actuary will be available for inspection from the date of this notice until the date of the final hearing of the Petition at the registered offices of the Petitioner: the said Scottish Provident Assurance Limited; the said PFI Assurance Limited; and the said Scottish Provident Managed Pension Funds Limited; and also at the offices of the Scottish Provident Group specified in the underwritten hereto.

All of which intimations is hereby given.

Dated the 6th day of October 1995.
BIGGART BAILEY & GIFFORD, SOLICITORS
DALMORE HOUSE, 310 ST VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW G2 5QR

UNDERNOTE

Scottish Provident office where copy documents may be inspected.

Scottish Provident Buildings.

7 Douglas Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JL

GLASGOW

Colmar Gate, 2 Colmar Row, Glasgow, G1 2DT

BIRMINGHAM

Colmar Gate, 2 Colmar Row, Birmingham, B5 2QD

BISTOL

Colmar Gate, 2 Colmar Row, Bristol, BS1 3AE

CAMBRIDGE

Scottish Provident House, 27-28 Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UJ

CROYDON

Lennox House, 2 Lennox Avenue, Croydon, CR0 9XS

EDINBURGH

5 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YA

GLASGOW

8 Albany Place, Edinburgh, EH2 4NG

KENDAL

9 Melville Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7YZ

LEEDS

19 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DT

LEEDS

Ridge Mills, Scamptown, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4UB

LONDON

St George House, Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3DL

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Hell-raiser creates new image for Lewis clash

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTIC CITY

THERE was something familiar about the white heavy-weight in the gym at Trump Plaza preparing to meet Lennox Lewis here on Saturday. You did not know it was Tommy "The Duke" Morrison until somebody told you. He did not look like Tommy "The Duke". Morrison was an all-American blond kid. This man had short dark hair, a down-turned Mexican-type moustache and a goatee beard.

He did not look like the Tommy Morrison who had taken the part of Tommy Gunn in *Rocky VI*; he looked more like one of the bandits in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. He certainly needed a badge to say who he was.

The facial changes were for this contest, the last touches in the calculated personality rearrangement of the hell-raiser from Kansas City. The Oklahoman had realised that he if wanted to stay in top-level boxing he would have to change his habit of drinking with the boys, chasing girls and staying out all night.

Training in military establishments just before a big

contest had served him well until he had been knocked out in one round by Michael Bentt two years ago and he realised that he needed to reassess his lifestyle.

"I lived a lie before," Morrison said. "I wasn't being myself. This is the real me. I was playing a part. I was stuck in the Tommy Gunn mould. You could say I was playing around a bit, drinking with my buddies, sleeping with girls and staying out till 5am. I wasn't discreet. It took me a lot to learn the public eye was on me. I didn't know how to make the best decisions."

But now, thanks to help from his girlfriend, Dawn Freeman, he drinks less, stays away from distracting company in Kansas City and prefers to live on his ranch in Jay with his two sons, two

cougars, a leopard, a monkey, deer, ducks and a dog — and read books.

"I did enough in two years to last any man ten years," Morrison said. "It was a professional partyer one time, but these days it does not take that much to have fun. Other

things are more important. You have to grow up some time. In this sport you grow up faster."

"Dawn was the best thing that happened to me. We've been together for eight years. She encouraged me to stay at home and separate myself from the bad environment in Kansas City. I hung around bars and got into a rut. I drank bottles and bottles of beer. I'm a big guy and I can put away a lot of liquor. Now I have stopped that."

Morrison added: "After Michael Bentt I kinda beat myself up. I'm a very guilt-prone athlete. I was saddened by what had happened. I was hurt, but it was all my fault. It was a tough situation coming back to the gym. I was out for three or four months before I went back. It's very humbling to go from the top to the bottom so fast. When you are doing well everybody is there to pat you on the back, but when you are not, everybody is running to hide under the shade tree."

Despite his record of 48 contests, which includes a win

over George Foreman for the World Boxing Organisation title, Morrison still feels inferior to top contenders. He puts this down to a lack of good amateur experience. He had 242 contests as a schoolboy, but only three months as a senior amateur before turning professional in 1988. In high school he played football and took part in tough-men contests before going straight into serious boxing. "I'm still playing catch up with these guys on experience level," Morrison said.

It is not clear if his new image will have any effect on his boxing when he meets Lewis.

Morrison has had eight bouts since losing to Bentt and won all of them, six inside the distance. In his last contest he knocked out Razor Ruddock in six rounds. He looked very impressive in the gym yesterday against a Lewis box-alike and had no trouble getting through to the chin with both hands. We should find out more on Saturday at the Convention Center when he faces the real thing.



Morrison displays a fearsome aspect in the gym as he prepares to take on Lewis in Atlantic City

Yorkshire award captaincy to Byas

By SIMON WILDE

IN OPTING for David Byas, a senior professional, ahead of Michael Bevan, the thrusting young Australian, as their next captain, Yorkshire yesterday fought shy of another break with tradition, but new ground may nevertheless be broken shortly. A club desperate for success also announced the creation of the post of manager-coach and an international search to fill it has begun, with the possible consequence that a rasping foreign accent may yet be barking out the orders at Headingley next season.

When Martyn Moxon unexpectedly resigned as captain last week, he made an eloquent call for fresh leadership that could turn a promising team into one that could win things again.

Chris Hassell, the club's chief executive, reiterated that message yesterday when he said the manager-coach was urgently required to motivate the team. "That is the area where we have been lacking," he said.

Byas, who led the side for much of the 1995 season in the absence of the injured Moxon and was Yorkshire's leading run-scorer in first-class matches, can hardly be described as a fresh face. He is 32 and has played for the county since 1986, and the wish to introduce a powerful presence off the field may be a realistic indicator as to the weight Byas can hope to carry in his new role.

Also, judging by the time taken to reach the decision, the choice of captain was not unanimous.

Hassell described the meeting as providing "very fruitful debate". Certainly, Bevan's cause was not helped by the possibility that he might be called away next August to tour Sri Lanka with Australia.

Bevan, 25, who will act as vice-captain, has been the most successful of Yorkshire's overseas signings since the club attempted, in 1991, to halt a slide in revenue and results by ending a century-old practice of not signing players from outside its boundaries.

The last person to hold the post of Yorkshire manager was Steve Oldham, briefly, in 1989: before him Raymond Illingworth more than a decade ago. Oldham's position as director of coaching was scrapped yesterday, but he retains a place on the coaching staff.

Meaningful trials seen as way to pull crowds

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics owned up yesterday to the mistakes that have contributed to considerable financial losses over the past 12 months. How the headwind will be turned into a tailwind is not entirely clear, but better relationships with athletes, cheaper seats for the big meetings to encourage the lost spectators to return, and more exciting Olympic trials might be a start.

The sport in Great Britain lost some £500,000 during a year in which the British Athletic Federation (BAF) fell out with Colin Jackson and Linford Christie and attendances dropped, although their absence from important domestic fixtures was not the sole cause of poor gate figures.

Over-pricing and inadequate marketing were significant, too. Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the BAF, said yesterday that "a more co-ordinated promotional drive and greater flexibility on ticketing policies" was needed.

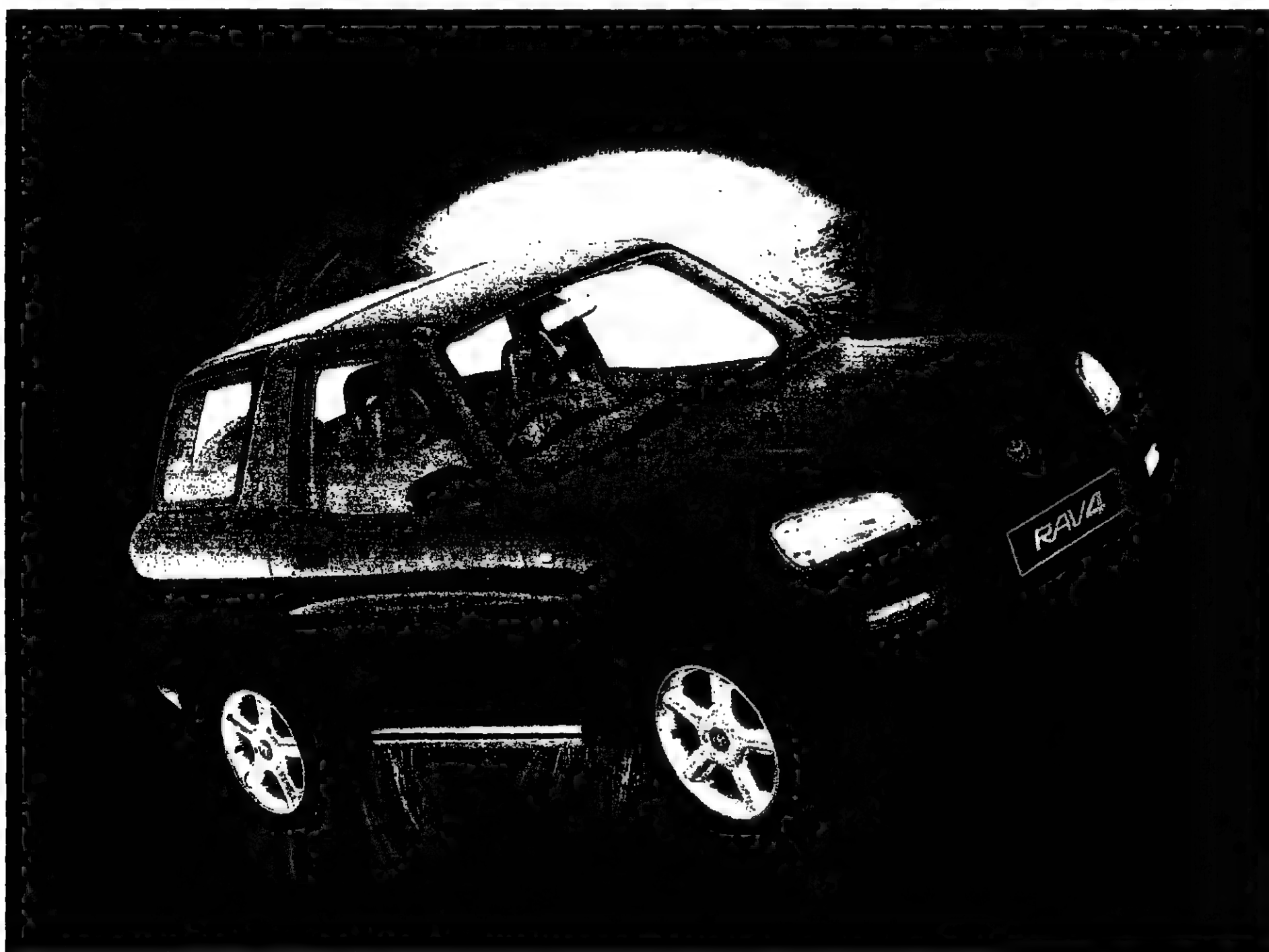
Radford suggested that, with so many meetings in Europe, and so much television coverage, the public was being overfed. "It's a bit samey," he said. "After a while, no one cares who wins. It's the same races and the same cast." Cheaper family group tickets can be expected in Britain next season.

The dispute between the federation, Christie and Jackson should not happen again, according to Radford. "I think we will see better relationships in the coming year," he said.

He added that the signing of contracts with athletes last year was carried out too late and the mistake would not be repeated. He was pleased that, in its introductory season, a 70 per cent success rate had been achieved in agreeing contracts with athletes.

"In 1995, our intention of providing services for athletes and being more athlete-friendly did not always work well," Radford said. However, the new athlete services programme allowed, he added, 30 of them competition which otherwise they would not have had. "We gave 120 grants for preparation, so we are helping numbers, not just one or two," Radford said.

He added that, in 1995, the BAF had not made clear its selection policies. Next month, it announces its Olympic selection criteria and a return to the first-two-post-the-post trial system is expected.



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Dinner, dance and the domino effect

I had done my homework: looked up the whereabouts of Goldharbour Lane in the London gazetteer; verified that Wray and Nephew, sponsors of the United Kingdom Domino League, are the very same West Indies wine and spirit merchants who produce Jamaican over-proof rum known on the island as "rude to your mother-in-law".

I confirmed that the game played in the league is not five-and-threes, which we play in East Anglia, but the follow-on or penny-a-spot game: that teams consist of six pairs who use "codes"...



FREUD ON FRIDAY

secret signs between players to denote who holds which stones. Dominoes without "code" is known as "mental", considered fit for women and children. And dominoes is a sport, not a game.

A "bower" is one who gets rid of all his stones and wins the match. A "block" is when no player can follow on, when the winners are the pair that hold fewest points. If there is a draw, there is no score but the next game is called a Derby and counts double. The winning team is the first to 151 points and Brixton, who hosted this encounter, head the premier league table, Sheffield United, their opponents, hold it up.

My informant who gave me directions to the venue also instructed me in Brixton-speak, and taught me "Let me have a take at your spill", so that I would blend with the indigenous citizenry. To be a like drag, only deeper: spill is a joint and it was with some consternation that I entered the Brixton Sports and Social Club on the night of the match, went to buy a drink at the bar run by so volubrious a woman she would have lasted me all my life were I careful, to find a notice stating: No drugs. No swearing. I asked politely for an



A player guards his dominoes during the premier league match at Brixton Sports and Social Club

Appleton Estate, which is white rum, reminiscent of high-quality lighter fuel, and I think it would be wise to confine consumption of this potion, were you intending to do anything serious over the next few days.

The Sheffield United team had arrived by coach soon after 4pm - a 3½ hour journey for 20 players and 14 supporters - wives, girlfriends or just people who thought Brixton greengrocers' yams might have the edge over those in the North.

They pay £10 a head, which includes travel, cups of beer soup on arrival, dinner after the game and dancing until 2am, when the licence ends.

If you think that you now have a general idea of what goes on, you are wrong. The room beyond the bar is divided by a rope and on one side are the six tables and 24 darkly intent men in suits and collared shirts (there is a dress code) who slam down their stones in the manner of Corsican peasants depositing their cards in bezique - and

when a pair win they hit the table with their open palms and shout; on the far side of the dividing rope their supporters, who cannot see the stones but can read the body language, cheer and punch the air and jump up and down. Each side has a scorer who gauges the result from the identity of the noisemakers. There are team captains who monitor what goes on and exchange players who are not performing as they might, have had an Appleton too many or too few. At the far

end of the room a man with a definitive scoreboard provides the running total.

The Sheffield captain is a quiet diplomat: Brixton's wears a red beret, is younger and louder. Reserve players wait by the rope or sit in the bar. I get as close as I can to watch the game, try to work out the signals, which are minimalist tic-tac-toe - one gesture to denote the number, another the total of stones held bearing it. "Rising" means indicating which piece you want your partner to

play; widdling your fingers means you want a double... but the sport is about winning, about enabling you to hit the table with brio so that your supporters can shout and cheer and blow whistles and get you another drink.

Claudia makes most noise. She has the shrillest whistle; she is 27, a secretary, her boyfriend runs his own computer business, plays for Sheffield and she travels to all matches. There used to be a lot of women, when Sheffield were good, but she thinks the team has gone off, needs commitment. "I don't want to insult anyone but we need more new players." She has a soft Yorkshire accent, has been to Jamaica on holiday, believes that what her team requires

When a pair win they hit the table with open palms and shout

is, well, commitment. "Like now we are 19 points ahead but the lead is shrinking all the time which is how it goes."

Upstairs in the dining-room and lounge that seats more than 50 people there is a kitchen where the women are cooking the dinner: curried goat, rice 'n' peas, tomatoes and lettuce. As in Jamaica, nobody seems to be working and everything gets done and smells good and is spotless.

When I come down, again so many people crowd the viewing side of the rope it is impossible to get near the action. The countrymen (domino language for away team) are making more noise, slapping their palms on the table with more force, the fact that they are winning, that Brixton are losing, filters through to the fathers, mothers and grannies who are arriving for the dance with eager daughters straight from the hairdresser.

Four and a half hours after the start, it is over. Sheffield have won. Claudia's shrill whistles without pause, Delroy and Linford, Sheffield steelworkers who started as reserves but got to play, hit their table in delight, and from the kitchen above wafts the delicately pungent aroma of curried goat.

Robson delays return in attempt to sign Juninho

By Louise Taylor

BRYAN ROBSON has spent all this week and several thousand pounds of Middlesbrough's money in an endeavour to bring Juninho from the beaches of Brazil to the banks of the River Tees. If thus far his efforts have been without reward, Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, remained optimistic last night about signing the 22-year-old Brazilian international playmaker, whose club contract at São Paulo expires in November.

Robson, who is in Brazil with the club's chief executive, Keith Lamb, does, however, face competition from Arsenal, Aston Villa, Leeds United and Bobby Robson's FC Porto, of Portugal. Although football business kept Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, away from Highbury yesterday, he was in Britain rather than Brazil and São Paulo have yet to receive a written offer for Juninho from any club other than Middlesbrough.

In Rioch's days as the

Middlesbrough manager - he was in charge when they defied liquidation in 1985 - spending between £4.6 million and £6.6 million on a Brazilian dubbed "the new Pelé" would have been inconceivable. How times change. Middlesbrough have offered £4.6 million, but are prepared to increase this offer to compromise with São Paulo's £6.6 million demand. Robson can also offer the player more than merely highly-competitive wages. His side now boasts a new, 30,000-capacity stadium, a fine start to the season in the FA Cup Premiership and, in Nick Barnby, one of the country's most exciting players.

This is Robson's second visit to Brazil. He visited São Paulo to try to sign Juninho in July and, last night, a spokesman for the Brazilian club, Eduardo Prada, said: "The only club to make us a serious written offer is Middlesbrough. Talks are at an advanced stage."

So advanced that it seemed Juninho would fly to Teesside yesterday. However, instead of returning in triumph, Robson was forced to delay his scheduled link-up with Terry Venables' England squad as it prepares for next week's international in Norway. Juninho's club is anxious to cash in before his contract expires. The player has frequently expressed a desire to live in England, but his preference appears to be for London. Robson's brief is to persuade Juninho that Teesside life has much more to offer.

United put Cantona on duty in reserves

By Our Sports Staff

MANCHESTER United reserves would not normally be among the more interesting fixtures on any given Saturday afternoon, but, tomorrow, it will be the presence of Eric Cantona, hardly your average, normal, common or garden player, will see to that.

With the FA Cup Premiership enjoying a weekend off to allow its leading lights to prepare for international duty next week, Cantona, overlooked by France yesterday for their European championship qualifier in Romania, will be turning out for United's second-string against the reserves from his former club, Leeds.

After an eight-month enforced rest, imposed because of his antics at Selhurst Park last season, Cantona, United believe, needs a run out.

"We are hoping to play him," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, confirmed yesterday. "He needs match practice. The more games he plays, the sharper he will get." Cantona has already played twice since returning from suspension, against Liverpool last Sunday and York City on Tuesday night.

Two games, however, were never likely to be enough to persuade the France coach, Aimé Jacquet, to recall him. Jacquet has said he would only choose players at peak fitness and has also left out Jean-Pierre Papin, who is unable to hold down a first-team place at Bayern Munich. David Ginola, of Newcastle United, has been selected, however.

Northern Ireland have invoked the five-day rule to prevent Jimmy Quinn playing for Reading against West Bromwich Albion tomorrow. Reading had believed Quinn, their joint-player-manager, would be available for the game.

Tony Mowbray, 31, the central defender, yesterday joined Ipswich Town in a £300,000 move from Celtic.

Dover slipping into dire straits

Non-League Football by Keith Pike

A CHANGE of manager for Dover Athletic has failed to halt the dismal run of results that threatens to leave them detached at the foot of the Vauxhall Conference after barely a quarter of the season.

The departure of John Ryan and his replacement by Peter Taylor, the former Tottenham Hotspur and England winger, was followed by two defeats, both to the only goal of the game, against Slough Town and Halifax Town. They extended a sequence that may condemn Dover to an unwanted place in the record-books.

Since beating Northwich Victoria on the opening day of the season, Dover have lost nine successive Conference matches, six of them by one goal. It is the club's worst run since it was reformed in 1983, and three more defeats will see Dover equal the 12-match losing sequence endured by Dagenham in the 1987-88 season.

Taylor, who has recruited Martin Hayes, the striker who once won a League Cup winner's medal with Arsenal, and Danny Foot, a full back, from Southern United, his former club, could not face a more difficult task tomorrow as he seeks to end Dover's misery. They must travel to Aggborough, where Kidderminster Harriers are tearing up a few records of their own.

Before losing 2-0 at Hednesford Town in the second leg of their Spalding Challenge Cup first-round tie on Monday, Darren Steadman, the Kidderminster goalkeeper, had gone 620 minutes without conceding a goal, and

even their defeat could not prevent the Conference leaders from going through 4-3 on aggregate. It was the club's best defensive run in 12 years of Conference football.

Graham Allner's team also continue to prove that good conduct and success can go hand in hand. Winners of the Fair Play Trophy for the past two seasons, Kidderminster are again setting the pace this season, having accumulated only eight cautions in the first ten matches. It is a record that is an obvious source of pride to David Reynolds, the club chairman.



Allner: reflected glory

"It is not something we go out to achieve, but it does reflect the type of club we are," Reynolds said. "Graham [Allner] has been here for 12 years, and it is mainly down to him and the type of players that he signs. No pressure is put on them, but if you don't get with the referee, tackle correctly and just get on with the game, it helps results."

Lyrical feast at midnight

The Land Where The Good Songs Go. Radio 3, midnight

Take my tip: stay up late tonight. Otherwise, you will miss a treat. Ignore this advice if you have no ear or appetite for some of the century's finest song lyrics. They are the work of Ira Gershwin, George's brother, and Yip Harburg, who wrote the lyrics in *The Wizard of Oz*. Mark Steyn has blown the dust off the Gershwins and Harburg show songs that are largely forgotten because the shows themselves struggled to survive. Sometimes, the two men worked together, notably for *Life Begins at 8:40*; sometimes, independently (Harburg's *Hokey for Whizz*, Gershwin's *Of Thee I Sing*). Either way, their lyrics were among the glories of American musical theatre.

Kaleidoscope Special. Radio 4, 9.30pm

Marcel Berlins reviews crime fiction in *The Times*. Having a finger on the pulse of the genre made him the ideal chairman for this discussion between some of the crime writers who were in Nottingham for a world mystery convention. Why Nottingham? It could be because of its reputation as one of the most violent cities in Great Britain. In winding up the proceedings, Berlins scarcely needed to opine that crime fiction was by no means on its way to the morgue. Without realising it, the woman-in-the-street, interviewed before the discussion, was speaking for Berlins and all the crime fiction fans who flocked to Nottingham when she said: "I like a bit of mystery; I like a bit of gore."

Peter Daville

<p>RADIO 1</p> <p>FM Stereo, 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.00 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Fiedler 12.30-12.45 Newsday 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 The Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00-4.00am Radio 1 Rap Show</p>	<p>WORLD SERVICE</p> <p>All times in BST. 5.00am Newsday 5.30-5.45 On the Shelf: An instant in the Wind 5.45-6.00 Newsday 6.30-6.45 Europe Today 7.00 Newsday 7.30-7.45 Europe Today 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf: An instant in the Wind 8.30-8.45 Newsday 9.00-9.15 Faith 9.15 Music Review 10.00 News in German 10.15 Faith 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsday 11.30 BBC Europe 11.45 On the Shelf: An instant in the Wind 11.45-12.00 Newsday 12.30pm Markian 1.00 News 1.05 Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30-1.45 Newsday 2.00 Newsday 3.00-3.15 Outlook 3.30-3.45 Music Review 4.00 News in German 4.15 Music Review 5.00 News 5.15 The World Today 5.30 News in German 6.00 Europe Today 6.30 Business Report 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsday 7.30 News in German 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Faith 8.30-8.45 Newsday 8.00 Newsday 10.00 World News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsday 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 11.45-12.00 Newsday 12.10-12.15 Science View 12.15 John Peel 12.45 Farming 1.00 Newsday 1.30-1.45 Newsday 1.45-1.55 Newsday 2.10 Press Review 2.15 Seven Days 2.30 Jazz 2.45 Books 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Politics 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Virage Chart</p>
<p>RADIO 2</p> <p>FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce, at 10.00 Rick de la Parra 11.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Throver 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Panel Beaters. The 70 Show 7.30 Friday Night Music Night 8.45 Follies (16) 9.00 Listen to the Band: Northrop Silver Band 10.00 Cousin Jack: The story of Cornish emigrants 12.00am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Charles Nowe</p>	
<p>RADIO 5</p> <p>5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 11.00am and 11.30am, then Radio 5.00 Midday with Neil, incl at 12.30pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00-2.05 News on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00-4.05 Newsday 4.15-4.20 Sport 4.25-4.30 Sport 4.35-4.40 Newsday 4.45-4.50 Newsday 5.00-5.05 Newsday 5.15-5.20 Newsday 5.25-5.30 Newsday 5.35-5.40 Newsday 5.45-5.50 Newsday 5.55-6.00 Newsday 6.05-6.10 Newsday 6.15-6.20 Newsday 6.25-6.30 Newsday 6.35-6.40 Newsday 6.45-6.50 Newsday 6.55-7.00 Newsday 7.05-7.10 Newsday 7.15-7.20 Newsday 7.25-7.30 Newsday 7.35-7.40 Newsday 7.45-7.50 Newsday 7.55-8.00 Newsday 8.05-8.10 Newsday 8.15-8.20 Newsday 8.25-8.30 Newsday 8.35-8.40 Newsday 8.45-8.50 Newsday 8.55-9.00 Newsday 9.05-9.10 Newsday 9.15-9.20 Newsday 9.25-9.30 Newsday 9.35-9.40 Newsday 9.45-9.50 Newsday 9.55-10.00 Newsday 10.05-10.10 Newsday 10.15-10.20 Newsday 10.25-10.30 Newsday 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BY PETER BALL

The romance, however, was lost on Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, who instead was relishing the financial rewards. "The game is all about money now," he said. "Those

"If we can approach the game in the same way and we are allowed to play our football, it could help to settle us, and we must have a chance."

The efforts of Stockport County and Bury, who saw off first division opponents, have also yielded different rewards. Stockport's prize for winning at Ipswich is the tie that Alan Little wanted, a visit to Villa

Coventry City v Tottenham
 Hotspur
 Southampton v West Ham United
 Derby County v Leeds United
 Millwall v Sheffield Wednesday
 Birmingham City v Tranmere
 Rovers

Norwich City v Bradford
Barnsley v Arsenal
Aston Villa v Stockport
County
Liverpool v Manchester City

☐ Ties to be played week commencing
October 23

Now the attraction of the meeting between one of the first division stragglers and one of the Premiership leaders is the chance of a giantkilling.

Although the draw may have made Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, flinch, he at least had the comfort of knowing he had secured the services of Lars Bohinen from Nottingham Forest. The £700,000 fee, considerably less

Robson chases Juninho 46
Cantona in reserves 46

The other all-Premiership tie takes Tottenham Hotspur to Coventry City, evoking memories of the 1987 FA Cup Final, one of the outstanding finals of modern times.

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN BERLIN

Even before he teed off,

Even more in need of a good week, under a pressure unknown to the top men, are Eriksson and D. J. Russell. Nos 129 and 128 on the money-list, outside the sainted top 126, who keep their tour cards for another year. Eriksson, 24, from Sweden, missed 13 consecutive cuts earlier in the year, but had nine thirds in his 64 in the spring-like conditions.



No 593

ACROSS	DOWN
1 The ordered universe (6)	1 Othello's lieutenant (6)
4 Accommodation with civil- ian (6)	2 Misuse of grammar (8)
8 Dispose of (4)	3 Sacred text (Hindu, Bud- dhist) (5)
9 Act menacingly (8)	5 Seriously purposed (2,7)
10 Hatching equipment (9)	6 Recently dead (4)
13 At no time (5)	7 Gentle; soft; painful (6)
15 US state on NE coast (5)	11 Help yourself (2,2,5)
16 Larne (leg) (5)	12 Cheap, thin dress material (5)
18 Huge, short-coated dog, (5,4)	14 Trump (8)
21 Anything that, of any kind (8)	16 Stare sullenly, angrily (6)
22 Comfortable multi-seater (4)	17 Do a fit (6)
23 Distant (6)	19 Missile; pointer (5)
24 Bring to an end; make anx- ious (4,2)	20 To work the land (4)

The solution to 5B2 will be published Wednesday, October 11

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BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

He admitted it was a "learning curve" so far as the administration of professional sport was concerned: "He told me a few home truths about how football was run and I expressed my views about rugby union's future." Hallatt said before reporting to the latest meeting of the RFU Commission, whose focus yesterday was on playing contracts.

Television calls tune 41

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Dymock was originally included as the Tonga captain before defecting with Hopoate to the world champions. Both

1000

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